

Hafa Adai!

Marianas added to AMBER Alert program. **PAGE 2**

10 mariners still missing after two-week search off Midway. **PAGE 6**

75¢

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PH reinstated in H-2B program

» **Torres says CNMI has 'severe' demand for Filipino construction workers after series of disasters**

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER



Torres

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security reinstated yesterday the Philippines on its the list of countries allowed to participate in the H-2B visa program, soon after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres appealed to DHS to al-

low the reinstatement, citing the CNMI's "severe" demand for Filipino construction workers.

This new ruling would allow the CNMI to bring in construction workers under
See H-2B on Page 4

'Travel bubble' pushed to February

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The planned "travel bubble," when the CNMI cautiously reopens its tourism sector, has been pushed back and the Marianas Visitors Authority has a new tar-

get date—February.

MVA, in partnership with the E-Land Group of Companies, which owns three hotel properties in the CNMI, were expecting to launch the "travel bubble" with South Korea back on Jan. 8 but that didn't happen,

See TRAVEL on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, Jan 13, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,429	15	7,444
Recovered	7,189	19	7,208
Active	97	15	15
Deaths	124	0	124
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			106,638

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	128	0	128
Traced via Travel Screening	102	0	102
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			148

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

IN HONOR OF FALLEN OFFICERS

The U.S. and CNMI flags of the U.S. Courthouse in Gualo Rai, among other flag locations across the CNMI, were lowered to half-staff yesterday, Jan. 13, as per the directive of President Donald J. Trump, who ordered the flags lowered as a sign of respect for the service and sacrifice of U.S. Capitol officers Brian D. Sicknick and Howard Liebengood. Both officers died after responding to the U.S. Capitol riot that occurred last Jan. 6.

NEIL FAMA



Step-by-step look at COVID-19 vaccination process

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The COVID-19 vaccination process isn't as easy as it looks. To illustrate that point, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. gave the media a

look at the process of how someone is inoculated with the vaccine.

Whether you're getting your first or second dose, people who are supposed to be vaccinated go first into the first tent at the back of the

See COVID-19 on Page 4



Propst

OAG closes rape cases vs Propst

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has closed the case involving the rape allegations against Rep. Edwin

Propst (D-Saipan) by declining to prosecute the case because the victims were either over 18 or the complaints already exceeded the statute of limitations.

See OAG on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Trench Tech Gym in Garapan adds yoga to its lineup that promotes health and fitness.

PAGE 11



NATION

The FBI warned law enforcement agencies ahead of last week's breach of the U.S. Capitol.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

Chuck Norris was not present at last week's riot at the U.S. Capitol, says his manager.

PAGE 15



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Local

Marianas added to AMBER Alert program

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Four of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) bills, including one that adds the CNMI and other insular areas in the AMBER Alert program to find missing children, are now laws.

In a Facebook post last Tuesday, Sablan said his bill, H.R. 4614, adds the Marianas and other insular areas to the national AMBER alert system for finding missing children.

AMBER alerts mobilize the community via radio, TV, and text messages and have helped locate almost 1,000 children since the system was created in 1996.

Sablan said his three other legislations will help Marianas small business; increase student participation in STEM disciplines (science, engineer-



Sablan

ing technology and math); and gives opportunities for military spouses.

Sablan authored the four bills, H.R. 4614, H.R. 6021, H.R. 6786, and H.R. 7712, and then piggybacked them in the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.

President Donald Trump had vetoed the NDAA but both the U.S. House and Sen-

ate overrode that veto, so the NDAA became law last Saturday. As a result, the CNMI became part of the AMBER Alert Program.

Sablan said his AMBER Alerts Nationwide Act will give law enforcement in the CNMI the financial and technical resources from the U.S. departments of Justice and Transportation to implement such alerts in the community in hopes of saving lives.

As for H.R. 6021, the Mari-

anas is now eligible for funding to establish a Lead Small Business Development Center. "Marianas small businesses will have access to federal seed funding," Sablan said.

Under H.R. 6786, the islands are included in the Department of Defense STARBASE grant program, which aims to improve students' skills in science, technology, engineering, and math. The STARBASE program aims to improve student skills in the STEM fields.

Sablan said STARBASE links military installations with schools having high

proportions of economically and educationally disadvantaged students.

Also, H.R. 7112, the Military Spouses Career Education Act, will help wives and husbands of service members finish their college degrees

more quickly and get the training needed to re-license in their professions, when they must move to a new location under military orders, Sablan said. As a result of the law, he said, military spouses will get more financial aid to get the training they may need to re-license in their profession or finish their college degrees.

» Sablan's four bills are now laws

PSS thanks Kilili for \$61.7M Education Stabilization Fund

CNMI Board of Education chair Andrew L. Orsini and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada expressed gratitude yesterday to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) for his efforts



Ada

in helping the Public School System secure a \$61.7 million Education Stabilization Fund grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Ada noted that this is the second Education Stabilization grant that Sablan has helped PSS secure, the first one amounting

to \$23.3 million that was received in May last year. Ada said these two ESF grants will guarantee that all PSS teachers and support staff will not experience a payless payday.

"On behalf of all educators, I want to [thank Delegate] Sablan for his tireless efforts in securing the much-needed federal funds to fill a big hole in the local budget," Ada said.

The ESF is a component of the Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020.

PSS Federal Program offi-

cer Tim Thornburgh noted that this second ESF grant will not only pay for salaries but can also be used to pay for sanitation supplies needed in all schools to clean every classroom every school day. It can also pay for the HVAC services needed for school air conditioners, secure technology gadgets such as laptops, iPads, and MiFis for students,

pay for mental health services, and pay for a whole range of education services that directly benefit student learning and



Orsini

classroom teaching.

Sablan's work as chairman of the Education Subcommittee in the U.S. Congress, according to Thornburgh, enabled him to make changes to the ESF that directly benefit both public and private schools.

Orsini said that Round 2 of the Education Stabilization Fund comes just in time and will greatly benefit the 10,052 students, their teachers, and the parents of all public school students on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. **(PSS)**

Rip currents expected until Monday

The public is being warned that a high risk for rip currents is expected through Monday afternoon

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are present along east facing reefs of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through Monday afternoon.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are advised to avoid venturing out along east facing reefs. Strong rip currents will be life-threatening. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. **(PR)**

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Man asks court to dismiss PUA suit if he gets his benefit

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

A man who is suing the CNMI Department of Labor for his Pandemic Unemployment Assistance claims is now asking the court to dismiss his suit on the condition that DOL issues his benefits.

During a status conference on Tuesday, John Angello asked the court to conditionally dismiss his lawsuit because DOL has made good faith efforts to settle and pay his benefits.

However, Angello asks the court to make the dismissal conditional since his payment has been subjected to another program delay.

Angello noted that since filing his suit, DOL has promised, through email, that a full payment of \$7,833 for him is being manually processed as of Jan. 5.

"[I] trust the defendant, although [I] wish to first verify that the direct bank deposit is received within the promised 5-10 government working days," he said.

However, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, through counsel Lillian Tenorio, has filed her own motion to completely dismiss the suit because the court lacks jurisdiction to hear Angello's claims and because he fails to state a claim in his suit.

"The court lacks jurisdiction to hear Angello's claims because [he] failed to exhaust his administrative remedies prior to filing his complaint and because his claims exceed the jurisdiction amount for small claims. Further, [Angello's] claims for relief have no legal basis upon which relief may be granted," Tenorio stated.

Tenorio said that, although styled as an original small claims action, a review of the allegations in the complaint bare that Angello's claims arise from his application for PUA benefits funded by federal funds administered by DOL.

Yet the complaint fails to allege that Angello exhausted his administrative remedies at DOL by lodging an appeal administratively within DOL, notwithstanding notice provided to applicants concerning the right to appeal.

In addition, Tenorio said, the exhibits entered by Angello in his complaint reveal that DOL had not completed processing his benefits payments, which is why final agency adjudication of his eligibility to receive benefits did not occur when he filed his complaint.

"By not exhausting his administrative remedies with DOL, plaintiff has prema-

turely raised the issue of his PUA benefits with this court,"

Tenorio said.

Additionally, Tenorio said,

because Angello is asking the court for relief for payment

of about \$13,455, it exceeds the small claim jurisdiction

amount of \$5,000, which warrants dismissal of the suit.

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KBB: \$9,950



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STK:19D204A

SALE PRICE

\$14,995

KBB: \$19,882



2017 MAZDA
CX-5 GT 2WD
45,271 MILES
STK:20D126A

SALE PRICE

\$18,995

KBB: \$19,912



2017 HYUNDAI
ACCENT GLS
16,979 MILES • STK: 7HS824

SALE PRICE

\$9,995

KBB: \$13,650



2017 HYUNDAI
ACCENT GLS
21,585 MILES • STK:7HS772

SALE PRICE

\$9,995

KBB: \$13,463



2015 MAZDA
MAZDA3 SPORT
18,543 MILES • STK:20D137A

SALE PRICE

\$9,995

KBB: \$15,497



2013 MAZDA
CX-9 TOURING
52,627 MILES • STK:13P301

SALE PRICE

\$12,995

KBB: \$13,875



2017 MAZDA
MAZDA3 SPORT
34,789 MILES • STK:7R218

SALE PRICE

\$13,995

KBB: \$15,129



2016 KIA
SEDONA LX
29,307 MILES • STK:6HS764

SALE PRICE

\$13,995

KBB: \$19,154



2017 MAZDA
MAZDA3 SPORT
34,648 MILES • STK:20M094A

SALE PRICE

\$13,995

KBB: \$14,967



2016 TOYOTA
PRIUS C
48,814 MILES • STK:20D134A

SALE PRICE

\$14,995

KBB: \$16,585



2018 MAZDA
MAZDA3 SPORT
11,625 MILES • STK:8HS884

SALE PRICE

\$14,995

KBB: \$19,554



2018 MAZDA
MAZDA3 SPORT
8,730 MILES • STK:8HS878

SALE PRICE

\$14,995

KBB: \$19,449



2018 MAZDA
MAZDA3 SPORT
7,910 MILES • STK:8HS875

SALE PRICE

\$14,995

KBB: \$19,496



2016 HYUNDAI
VELOSTER HATCHBACK
39,217 MILES • STK: 20H068-A

SALE PRICE

\$14,995

KBB: \$15,830



2016 HYUNDAI
TUCSON GT
58,260 MILES • STK: 20D063A

SALE PRICE

\$15,995

KBB: \$16,231



2016 HYUNDAI
VELOSTER COUPE
47,049 MILES • STK: 18HS938-A

SALE PRICE

\$15,995

KBB: \$15,981



2017 MAZDA
CX-3 GT AWD
18,475 MILES • STK: 7P295

SALE PRICE

\$16,995

KBB: \$18,470



2018 MAZDA
MAZDA6 SPORT
7,365 MILES • STK: 18HS965C

SALE PRICE

\$16,995

KBB: \$22,095



2019 MAZDA
CX-5 SPORT
8,105 MILES • STK:20H104-A

SALE PRICE

\$21,995

KBB: \$24,573



2019 MAZDA
CX-5 GT AWD
8,214 MILES • STK:19P299

SALE PRICE

\$26,995

KBB: \$28,460



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Report estimates extent of Guam economic decline in 2020

The “2020 Guam Economic Report” released yesterday by economics professor Maria Claret Ruane and a team of faculty, students, and alumni from the School of Business and Public Administration at the Univer-

sity of Guam estimates that Guam’s economy in 2020 will show a retraction between -0.7% and -18.9% but that it could have retracted as much as -49% without federal pandemic assistance.

The estimate foreshadows Guam’s real Gross Domestic Product figure for 2020, which may not be released from the Bureau of Economic Analysis under the U.S. Department of Commerce until late

2021 or early 2022.

“Guam’s real GDP for 2020...is expected to decline, which would reflect the economic impact of this COVID-19 pandemic to include the decimation of tourism and the resulting loss of output, income, employment, and tax revenues in other sectors of Guam’s economy,” the report states.

The decline in Guam’s economy compared to 2019 is based on the following factors:

■ The authors estimate that Guam’s 76% decrease in tourism from 2019, as reported by the Guam Visitors Bureau, resulted in a loss of local income and spending of \$1.38 billion.

■ The \$1.38 billion loss from tourism was more than offset by the \$1.6 billion Guam received in various forms of federal assistance through the CARES Act. In the absence of this assistance, the report estimates Guam’s economy would have declined 42% to 49%. For reference, the U.S. economy decreased 25%

between 1929 and 1933 during the Great Depression.

■ The authors calculated the unemployment rate to be 19.8% using one approach and 26.6% using another. This supplements an official unemployment rate released by Guam’s Bureau of Labor Statistics for June 2020 of 17.3%.

■ The authors calculated that household spending decreased between 30% and 50%, while business spending decreased 50% to 70% in the absence of federal assistance.

The report notes that the authors could not reference some of the typical primary sources of economic data due to limited or delayed availability. Instead, the team used media reports and educated assumptions based on best practices to produce their own estimates.



Ruane

COVID-19

From Page 1

Commonwealth Health Center on Navy Hill to have their temperatures checked, and are then validated if they are getting their second or first dose. After that, patients will walk to the verification tent before they are sent to the vaccination tent.

After getting verified for the dose you will be getting, CHCC personnel will escort you to the next tent where the actual vaccination takes place. You will be met by more CHCC personnel who will take your temperature again and then escort you to your seat where you will be seated 6 feet apart from other patients while they are getting their vaccines.

At this point, CHCC pharmacists will draw the vaccine from vials into syringes for injection. Once a needle is inserted into the vaccine vial, CHCC personnel will have two hours to use the vaccine until it expires, said CHCC chief executive

officer Esther Muña.

Next, when the patient is already inoculated, they are then escorted to another tent where they will be observed for 15-30 minutes by CHCC nurses to see if they have any allergic reaction. According to Muña, patients will get the full 30 minutes if they have underlying health conditions or have known allergies.

One CHCC personnel who asked not to be named said they have not seen anyone who has had an allergic reaction right after getting vaccinated.

Once their 15 to 30 minutes are up, patients will receive a card that indicates that they’re done with their vaccination or when their next dose will be. Once they are done getting their vaccination card, they will then either wait 21 days for their next dose, or if they have already received their second dose, then they are officially done.

Patients who have trouble registering can seek help from the COVID-19 call center. That’s in one

of the Medical Care and Treatment Site’s tent. COVID-19 call center supervisor Julie Inos said she and her staff are there from 5:45am until 10:30pm.

So far, the call center has not come across people posing as a front-liners to get vaccinated, Inos said.

Muña emphasized that there’s a lot of cooperation throughout the process. “I just want to emphasize that if you really look around... there’s a lot of agencies involved here...from the Call Center, to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, you have the Department of Public Safety involved here, CHCC staff...and we do this every day. Sometimes it’s 24/7 monitoring of the freezer, making sure that everything is intact, and meeting the requirements of the vaccines and storage,” said Muña.

She also said that CHCC staff are working night and day to ensure not only a smooth process, but that the vaccines aren’t wasted.

TRAVEL

From Page 1

with acting MVA board chair Gloria Cavanaugh saying they couldn’t get a charter flight approved for the target date, hence the delay.

She said they are actively applying for another charter and the MVA is hopeful that the program will commence in early February.

“Jan. 18 is when we’re going to reapply for the charter. Our next target date will be early February,” Cavanaugh said.

MVA is still waiting for travel restrictions in South Korea to loosen up before they can reapply for a charter flight from South Korea to the

CNMI. “It’s because of the high level that they are in right now. They’re at 2.5, which is the second [risk level]. That is until Jan. 17. So, after Jan. 17, we will reapply for the charter. It looks like [the South Korean government] is okay with it. It’s just what we have to go through a couple of different agencies in order to get the approval. So, it’s still on,” she said.

Cavanaugh said it’s a good sign that tour agencies across South Korea are receptive to the idea and that there is “a lot of chatter” about the program. Cavanaugh added that all major tour agencies in South Korea know about the CNMI’s “travel bubble” plan but tours cannot be sold yet until a date is confirmed and a

confirmed date cannot be made until there is a charter.

“All of the major tour agents know about it. There’s chatter within the [community] so people do know about it. But the tour agents are not going to go out and actively sell it yet until they actually have a confirmed date. So there’s a lot of chatter. There’s a lot of interest in it, but there’s no confirmation on the reservations [and] that is because there isn’t a date. Once there is a date, then the tour agent will actually go out and [sell the program],” she said.

A travel bubble is an exclusive arrangement between two jurisdictions that will allow the relatively easier transit between the two areas.

OAG

From Page 1

According to OAG Chief Prosecutor John Bradley, even though reports acquired from the Department of Public Safety seem to confirm the concerns of rape allegations, there is insufficient factual information and legal justification for pursuing a criminal prosecution against Propst.

“Several of these incidents did not involve a crime because the victims were 18 or older and seemingly provided consent. For those incidents that potentially establish probable cause to believe sexual crimes occurred, the passage of substantial time, expiration of the statute of limitations, and the desire of the victims for confidentiality weighs against prosecution,” he said.

In addition, the eight potential female victims have all indicated they do not want to pursue any charges or become identified in public after so many years after the incidents.

Some of the defining laws in the OAG’s decision include Public Law 3-26 when children were previously defined as a person under the age of 16 years for the purpose of the offense of Sexual Abuse of a Child.

Another law cited was P.L. 3-71 where the offense of Criminal Oral Copulation, unless without consent, only applied to victims under the age of 18. In addition, the statute of limitations for Sexual Abuse of a Child and Criminal Oral Copulation was four years after the commission of the crime.

DPS initiated about two years ago its investigation into allegations that Propst engaged in sexual contact or intercourse with several underage females some 20 years ago while he was employed as a teacher at Marianas High School and Northern Marianas College.

One of the victims reported that she had a consensual sexual relationship with Propst in 1999, when he was a teacher while she was a 16-year-old student at MHS.

She added that Propst had consen-

sual sexual relationships with two other individuals that who were also teenagers at the time. DPS took reports from the two.

Two separate victims, who were over 18 at the time of the incident, reported that they had consensual sexual relationship with Propst while he was a teacher at NMC.

One of these victims also reported that Propst, on one occasion, indecently exposed himself while they were in a car. She said that she reported the incident to the NMC administration and thought that Propst had received some administrative consequence. She said she did not know if NMC reported the incident to DPS. She said that Propst later apologized to her.

Another victim, who was 19 at the time, reported that when she was attending NMC, she had a consensual sexual relationship with Propst.

In 1989, a victim who was 14 at the time said an intoxicated Propst got on top of her in her home and attempted to touch her. After she screamed, he got off her and left.

H-2B

From Page 1

the H-2B visa program. In his letter to DHS on Monday, Torres said the CNMI economy needs more workers to develop and rebuild the community after a series of disasters. Torres originally appealed for the reinstatement of the Philippines in both H-2A and H-2B visa programs; DHS only approved the H-2B request.

Torres thanked acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf yesterday for supporting the needs of the CNMI community and responding to his request before the start of the next administration.

“Over the next several years, the CNMI will see large construction projects that will bring new jobs for our people, new developments for our local economy, and a stronger, more resilient Marianas. Labor is a critical need for our islands, and this announcement is welcome news for our community,” he said.

In its announcement yesterday, DHS said Mongolia and the Philippines are now eligible to participate in the H-2B program effective Jan. 19, but not in the H-2A program.

There are 83 countries, including the Philippines, in DHS’ list of countries that are eligible to receive H-2B and H-2A visas.

The H-2A and H-2B visa programs allow U.S. employers to bring foreign nationals to the U.S. to fill temporary agricultural and nonagricultural jobs, respectively.

In his letter to Wolf, Torres requested consideration of once more including the Philippines on the list of countries whose nationals are eligible to participate in the H-2B visa program as a critical component of the CNMI’s ongoing efforts to support a vibrant and viable economy and rebuild from the devastation of recent natural disasters.

“Making adequate and timely progress on both these fronts would ensure our resiliency against future disasters and help keep the many residents of these islands safe in the years ahead,” Torres said.

DHS removed the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, and Ethiopia from the H-2B visa program last Jan. 19, 2019, due to the potential for abuse, overstay rates, fraud, human trafficking, and other forms of non-compliance.

On Feb. 14, 2019, Torres wrote to then-DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen about the CNMI’s concern about this, citing the significance of the Philippines for the CNMI’s workforce needs, especially in light of the CNMI’s severe demand for construction labor to support the mobilization of federal relief funds following the widespread damage caused by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Since that initial letter to Nielsen, Torres said, many large-scale projects have been approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and a host of other federal agencies for the CNMI that will require a substantial construction workforce to accomplish in coming years.

“Given our geographic proximity to Asia and the limitations on sourcing labor in other non-listed countries in the region, the Philippines remains a key source country for skilled and able construction laborers to fill our urgent needs,” the governor said.

In its announcement yesterday, DHS also stated that Mongolia is no longer designated as an eligible country for the H-2A visa program because “it no longer meets the regulatory standards” for that program. The DHS statement did not clarify this point.

Citing the same reason, Samoa and Tonga are also no longer eligible for the H-2A and H-2B visa programs.

Factors that could result in the exclusion of a country or the removal of a country from the DHS list include fraud, abuse, denial rates, overstay rates, human trafficking concerns, and other forms of noncompliance with the terms and conditions of the H-2 visa programs.

Typically, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services approves H-2A and H-2B petitions.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



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BACON JALAPENO
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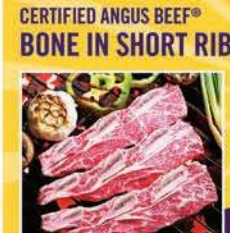
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10 mariners still missing after two-week search in Midway



An Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules aircrew search for the crew of the fishing vessel Yong-Yu-Sing No. 18, 550-miles northeast of Midway Island. The crew of the fishing vessel are believed to be onboard a life raft, promoting a search that had been ongoing since Dec. 31, 2020.

U.S. COAST GUARD

HONOLULU—The search for 10 missing mariners who are presumed to be on a life raft that is adrift 550 miles northeast of Midway Island entered its 14th day yesterday, with still no signs of the missing crew.

According to a U.S. Coast Guard statement yesterday, it said the U.S. Navy, good Samaritans, and the Coast Guard are coordinating the search with Rescue Coordination Center Taipei for the 10 crewmembers of the *Yong-Yu-Sing No. 18*.

Good Samaritans aboard the fishing vessel *Lian-Horng No. 67* placed an automatic tracking system beacon aboard the *Yong-Yu-Sing No. 18*, but were unable to board due to heavy seas.

“We continue to work closely with our partners during the search efforts and to date have consecutively completed 29 search sorties lasting 73 hours in total and covering more than 40,000 square nautical miles,” said Cmdr. Scott Higbee, a Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu search and rescue mission coordinator. “We will continue to coordinate closely and look into all search options while we move forward.”

The partners have been searching for the crew since Dec. 31, 2020, after Rescue Coordination Center Taipei lost contact with the vessel. An Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 aircrew located the adrift

Yong-Yu-Sing No. 18 on Jan. 1, with a missing life raft and no signs of the 10 crewmembers.

Following the discovery of the vessel, JRCC Honolulu watchstanders coordinated with both the Navy and good Samaritans aboard four Taiwanese fishing vessels and three Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue System merchant vessels to continuously search the area over the following days.

Both Air Station Barbers Point and Navy aircrews have performed continuous daily air sorties of the area while the merchant and fishing vessel crews have conducted surface searches.

“One of the largest chal-

lenges with regards to this case besides the vast distances involved has been the weather,” said Higbee. “High seas, strong winds, and low visibility have been a constant obstacle that has prevented crews from boarding the *Yong-Yu-Sing No. 18*.”

The reported weather on scene has been winds regularly greater than 20 mph and seas of 11 to 25 feet.

Despite the seas, both the *Lian-Horng No. 67* and the AMVER vessel M/V *Horizon Spirit* circled within 200 feet of the vessel this weekend. They searched for signs

of any crewmen that may have remained aboard, gathered imagery to help ascertain the cause of the incident, and dropped the automatic tracking system beacon on the vessel. The automatic tracking system beacon will allow watchstanders to continuously track the vessel as the search continues.

AMVER is a world-wide voluntary reporting system sponsored by the United States Coast Guard. It is a computer-based global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in dis-

tress at sea. Today, over 22,000 ships from hundreds of nations participate in AMVER.

Involved in the search to date: Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point C-130 Hercules aircrews; a Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak C-130J Hercules aircrew; four Taiwanese fishing vessels; Navy P-8 Poseidon aircrews; crew of the AMVER vessel M/V *Oocl Tokyo*; crew of the AMVER vessel M/V *Nicon Future*; crew of the AMVER vessel M/V *Horizon Spirit*; and crew of the AMVER vessel M/V *Zim New York*. (PR)

Guam backs Kilili's measure to lift Medicaid cap for territories

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero issued the following statement regarding Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's measure to lift the Medicaid cap for U.S. territories:


“COVID-19 is forcing every American to acknowledge the inequities of our national health care policy. This is why we worked with the White House, the U.S. Senate, and

[Guam Delegate] Michael San Nicolas to avoid the Medicaid cliff in 2019 and secure reduced match rates going forward. I commend [Delegate Gregorio] Kilili [C.] Sablan for reintroducing his measure and for the profound benefit it will bring to the people of the territories.

“Disease doesn't care which part of the nation you live in

and neither should federal law. As Americans, we all benefit from federal health care policy that helps those with the greatest economic need and without arbitrary limitations.

“This is why I support [Delegate] Sablan's measure as a first step. It is why I am thankful to his cosponsors and to President-elect Biden for his prior public support.” (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

CUC-RAES-21-013

A&E Design Services for the Lower Miha Sewerline Replacement (S19-068)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the Lower Miha Homestead Sewerline Replacement in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAES package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RAES-21-013, A&E Design Services for Lower Miha Sewerline Replacement”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 12, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAES does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAES and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Dennis Formalejo, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-013

SUBMISSION DATE: February 17, 2021 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

“Managaha Pier Rehabilitation Project, Saipan”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **January 14, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 2, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **DPL Conference Room Joeten Dandan, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 11, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICE

Matthew T. Gregory, Esq., F0205
Law Office of Matthew T. Gregory, LLC
Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 603
PMB 419 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 234-9005/6 | Fax No. (670) 235-9007
Email Address: matt@gregoryfirm.com

Attorney for Pacific Eco Laundry

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Pacific Eco Laundry, Inc. Plaintiffs,

Tae Ho Kim Defendant

CIVIL CASE NO. 0110A

SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: TAE HO KIM

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any Answer you wish to make to Verified Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within (21) days after service of this Summons upon you and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to Plaintiffs' attorney, whose address is: Suite 603, Marianas Business Plaza, PMB 419, Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer with the Clerk of the above-named Court Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at the Commonwealth Superior Court located on Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an Answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default will be taken against you for the relief requested in the attached Verified Complaint.

By order of this Court.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2020
By: /s/ Clerk of Court
Commonwealth Superior Court

LTA to welcome 2 new board members

The Latte Training Academy Inc. will welcome two new members of its board of directors to start 2021.

The organization, a federally recognized 501c3 non-profit organization, will add Alexis Hofschneider and Kimberly Camacho to its board, filling the vacancy left from the departure of Ed Arriola Jr. and Jeremy Sasamoto. Juan-Carlos Benitez will retain his post on the board.

“We are thrilled to add two of the CNMI’s emerging young professionals as part of our organization’s board. . . .In keeping with our commitment to focus on the development of the Marianas, the addition of Mrs. Alexis Hofschneider as a board member, will allow the organization to focus on meeting the workforce needs beyond the island of Saipan. Understanding that the economic and workforce landscapes [on] Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are unique to each island, the Latte Training Academy is focused on meeting those specific needs and expanding our services to our brothers and sisters [on] Tinian and Rota. We are equally excited to welcome Ms. Kimberly Camacho to our team. Ms. Camacho currently serves as the office manager for ARI, Ltd., which is a service-disabled veteran-owned small business. Prior to her current role, Ms. Camacho worked with First Hawaiian Bank and is an aspiring educator,” said Arriola.

While Arriola will no longer serve as a member of the organization’s board, he will continue to support the organization with a transition into a role focused on LTA’s industry development efforts. For his part, Sasamoto will be pursuing additional growth opportunities beyond the CNMI. Both Arriola and Sasamoto have served two separate terms as board members and are responsible for the development of the organization over six years.

“...Arriola was critical to the success of the development and launching of the CNMI’s cybersecurity program in partnership with InteliSecure, Inc. Under his leadership, this industry partnership was responsible for launching the region’s first Security Operations Center, creating new employment opportunities for the community at time when the economy was contracting due to the pandemic. We look forward to Mr. Arriola’s contribution to expanding this program, bringing more industry opportunities to the community. . . .Sasamoto [is] a founding member of the organization and has poured in countless hours into developing the organization. We certainly appreciate his vision and effort and we are certain that he will always be a part of the LTA family,” said LTA president Juan-Carlos Benitez.

To learn more about the academy, visit www.lattetrainingacademy.org. *(PR)*

Rotary to host first golf tournament of the year

The Rotary Club of Saipan will be hosting its first golf tournament of the year called “Open Golf Tournament” on Feb. 13 at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.

This time, the golf tournament will be a two-person scramble.

The last day to register for the early bird registration is on Feb. 5, with a registration fee of \$110 and \$20 for optional play. For regular registration, it is \$140. Registration fees are available at Laolao Bay Golf and Resort, Triple J Motors, Megabyte, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The low gross cash prize for first place is \$500, second place is \$400, third place \$300, and fourth place is \$200. For the double Peoria, cash prize for first place is \$500, second place is \$400, third place \$300, fourth place is \$200, and fifth place is \$100.

Showtime is at 6am, and shotgun start is at 7am.

The last golf tournament that Rotary held that involved a two-person scramble was their Goodwill Golf Tournament last October, which raised for the club a grand total of \$21,247.80 plus expenses. The Rotary spent \$10,660 for the event, leaving them with a total of \$10,587.80. The Goodwill golf tournament attracted 100 players. *(Justine Nauta)*

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21-016

Opening Date: December 11, 2020
Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	Technical Manager for Oil
DEPARTMENT:	Petroleum Compliance Office
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$56,439.00 to \$96,657.60 per annum, Exempt
CONTRACT:	Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) is seeking for a qualified Technical Manager for Oil (“TMO”). CUC is a public utility corporation located on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)—a United States territory in the northwestern Pacific Ocean.

Reporting directly to CUC’s Executive Director (ED) or designee, Technical Manager for Oil (TMO) fills a position required by the Stipulated Order (SO) of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051.

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Duties:

- He/she is responsible for Environmental, Health, Safety, and Security compliance at the CUC facilities.
- The Technical Manager for Oil will have authority to make decisions for management and operations of the oil related items required by the Stipulated Order and will be primarily responsible for assisting the Executive Director in overseeing all environmental assessment and cleanup projects, all oil spill prevention initiatives, preparedness and response operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis as required by the Stipulated Order.
- The TMO shall be the person responsible for maintaining regular contact with staff and contractors regarding Section 311CWA compliance issues and will support the Executive Director in management and operations decisions for the oil related items required by the Stipulated Order.
- Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- The Technical Manager for Oil further develops and executes programs to ensure effective identification and management of the Environmental, Health, Safety, and Security risks posed by CUC’s Operations and businesses, as well as seeking opportunities to deliver both operational integrity and wider benefits to CUC via sustainability initiatives.
- The post holder is expected to enhance the management of risk in the CUC business stream and working with the Management team, use appropriate leadership processes and behaviors to mitigate risk.
- The role will encompass the implementation of EHSS programs including training, raising awareness, managing audits, reporting CUC EHSS compliance, providing technical expertise and support to CUC Management team as required.
- The TMO will be in-charge of training, enforcement and in operational issues having to do with environmental, health, safety, and security compliance.
- Other duties of a similar nature or level as assigned or required.

Minimum Requirements:
Successful candidates for CUC’s Technical Manager for Oil must have the following:

Education: Completion of four (4) years of college, or its equivalent, with major work in engineering, science, industrial hygiene, or other field related to work with project management and/or environmental compliance, and one (1) to three (3) years of experience with oil spill prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment, construction oversight or power plant operations. Applicant must have an exceptional knowledge of U.S. Environmental laws and regulations pertaining to oil; knowledge and understanding of the contracting process. Good skills and experience working with regulators such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Coast Guard.

In addition the Technical Manager for Oil must demonstrate the following: Proven management and communication skills, demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff in the realm of health, safety, security and environmental awareness, experience with managing environmental and/or construction projects during periods of planning, design and construction. Further, the TMO should have experience with the following: oil, oily water, water sampling and testing, International Air Transport Association (IATA) certified to ship petroleum samples, oil storage, use, transportation and disposal; assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites; environmental compliance; development of statement of work, oversight of contractors; staff training and development; and federal oil spill prevention, preparedness and response requirements. Further the TMO shall have the experience in conducting various training seminars, and recordkeeping for training and deferral compliance.

Knowledge of: Leadership principles; Supervisory principles; Strategic planning principles; Budgetary principles; Project management principles; Applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Preparing and administering budgets; Developing and administering strategic plans; Managing large, complex projects; Giving presentations; Preparing technical reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- o Valid CNMI Driver’s License with appropriate class.
- o A Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator’s Certification is desired, but not mandatory.

Relocation Expenses:
If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21-017

Opening Date: December 11, 2020
Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	Deputy Executive Director
DEPARTMENT:	Executive
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$120,000.00 to \$135,000.00 per annum, Exempt
CONTRACT:	Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) is seeking for a qualified Deputy Executive Director (“DED”). CUC is a public utility corporation located on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)—a United States territory in the northwestern Pacific Ocean.

The CNMI is a tropical island consisting of fourteen islands with Saipan, Rota, and Tinian the only islands with a population. In the CNMI you can escape to a place of magnificent beaches and crystal clear aqua waters, and rich history. Saipan offers year-round outdoor activities, world class diving and golfing, international shopping, a range of ethnic restaurants and a cacophony of indigenous and international cultures.

Reporting directly to CUC’s Executive Director (ED) or designee, the Deputy Executive Director (DED) fills a position required by the Stipulated Order (SO) of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051.

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Primarily responsible for overseeing, all drinking water and wastewater operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis, as required by the Stipulated Order. Responsible for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding CWA and SDWA compliance issues. Has authority to make decisions for management and operations of the drinking water and wastewater systems.
- Supervises and directs Water & Wastewater lead staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Provides management assistance to the Executive Director to include: coordinating activities between CUC and outside organizations and agencies; researching and preparing recommendations on operational directives; and, preparing and presenting reports.
- Assumes full management responsibility over divisions as delegated by the Executive Director. Plans, directs and coordinates work of divisions through department heads by meeting with management to identify, prioritize and resolve problems.
- Directs and implements maintenance plans; evaluates maintenance programs to ensure maintenance standards are enforced.
- Participates on a variety of boards and committees and attends a wide variety of management meetings.
- Serves as the Executive Director when the Executive Director is out of the CNMI.
- Responsible for short and long-range strategic planning and

Minimum Requirements:
Successful candidates for CUC’s Deputy Executive Director must have the following:

Education: Master’s degree in management, engineering, finance or public administration, or, in the alternative, a bachelor’s degree in engineering and registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical, or electrical branch.

Experience: Senior management experience of at least ten (10) years desired in similar wastewater and drinking water utility (combined utility is preferred), with similar or greater capital and operating budgets, capital improvement projects, human resources needs, utility financing issues, operation and maintenance training, and implementation needs.

Must demonstrate: Proven management and communications skills; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; Experience with managing major water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, and construction; Experience with water and wastewater systems, user fee system development, bond funding, staff training and development, and federal drinking water and wastewater requirements.

Experience with user fee system development and bond funding is desired, but not mandatory.

Knowledge of: Leadership principles; Supervisory principles; Strategic planning principles; Budgetary principles; Project management principles; Applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Preparing and administering budgets; Developing and administering strategic plans; Managing large, complex projects; Giving presentations; Preparing technical reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- o Valid CNMI Driver’s License with appropriate class.
- o A Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator’s Certification is desired, but not mandatory.

Relocation Expenses:
If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Get. Us. Vaccinated.
What's the holdup?

The swift development of highly effective vaccines for the novel coronavirus was a marvel of modern science, holding out the prospect of an early end to a pandemic that has rampaged across the country. But creating vaccines is one thing; getting them administered is another. That part of the process is not a marvel but a muddle.

In mid-December, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said that 20 million Americans would get shots by the end of the year. By Jan. 8, 21.4 million doses had been distributed, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—but only 5.9 million had been administered. In Illinois, only 28% of the 737,000 doses have actually found their way into arms.

This sluggish rollout coincides with continued tragedy. On Thursday, more than 4,000 people died in the United States from COVID-19, the third straight day of record fatalities. More than 360,000 deaths have occurred. And a new, more contagious strain of the virus that first appeared in Britain has been detected in at least eight U.S. states.

What's holding up actual vaccinations? It's hard to escape the conclusion that the federal government and state governments just failed to ramp up sufficiently for a mass inoculation program, which they knew was coming. With months to get ready—Pfizer reported the success of its vaccine trial on Nov. 9—they seem to have been caught unprepared for the logistical challenges. Why didn't federal and state officials create mass vaccination training programs? Call on the National Guard, retired medical personnel, college nursing students to administer shots? Open field houses and park districts and stadiums for quicker, more efficient vaccinations? Is that wishful thinking?

Here in Illinois, there have been successes. Dr. Sadiya Khan, an assistant professor and epidemiologist at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, told us that large hospitals have done a good job of vaccinating doctors, nurses and other employees who work with patients. Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker said on Jan. 6 that one-third of all health care workers have gotten at least one of the two shots needed.

But moving from big facilities to millions of individuals is a more complex endeavor. This is a major challenge everywhere, not just in this country. France has managed to inoculate only 45,000 people, and the Netherlands didn't even start until Jan. 6.

Planning was complicated in the U.S. by uncertainty about how many doses would be coming and when. The rollout unfortunately coincided with the December holidays, which slow almost every human activity. Unlike many vaccines, these are in limited supply. That being the case, states have targeted various groups in order of priority, with medical workers and nursing home residents and staff first in line. Next on the list in Illinois are "front-line essential workers," including first responders, teachers, grocery employees and transit personnel.

Reaching a broader population won't be simple. We were

See GET on Next Page



Shocking. Sad. Shameful. Inevitable. How
to describe the insurrection at the Capitol?

Shocking
Sad
Disgusting
Dismaying
Tragic
Shameful
Revolting
Appalling
Treasonous
Unbelievable
Insane
Inevitable

At some point Wednesday, I started keeping the list of words above, words that radio and TV commentators were using to describe whatever exactly was happening at the United States Capitol. It was hard to tell what that was at first, beyond that inside, members of Congress were debating whether to affirm the election of the lawfully elected new president while outside, a mob had swarmed in support of the president who refused to concede he lost.

On a yellow legal pad, I jotted the words down as the mob climbed walls and broke windows; as police tried, or didn't, to hold them back; as lawmakers hid under furniture and locked themselves in offices; as the rioters brandished Confederate flags, smashed journalists' cameras and posed for gleeful selfies; as the president who had goaded them to this carnival of lawlessness stayed safely inside his government-subsidized house.

I kept a list, too, of what this event was being called:

Attack
Assault
Invasion
Insurrection
Insurgency
Riot
Coup
Siege
Rampage
Breach
Sedition
Mayhem
Chaos
Stunt

And I noted the words used to describe the people committing the sad, dismaying, and yet somehow inevitable act.

Mob
Terrorists
Insurrectionists
Protesters
Marauders
Invaders
Outlaws
Rebels
Rioters
Trump supporters
Trump fans
Extremists
Dupes

In the days since then, as all of us search for the words to understand what happened, and what continues to happen, I left those lists on my dining table, and my eye kept landing on several words in particular.

For example, "shocking."

What happened at the Capitol was shocking. It jolted our minds and nervous systems. It has kept ordinary Americans up late or waked them up early and jittery.

And yet something can be shocking without being truly surprising, and this assault on the Capitol and the law was not surprising. Donald Trump has often encouraged his supporters to

By **MARY SCHMICH**
Chicago Tribune



Mary Schmich is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune and winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for commentary.

violence, and in the past few weeks he has urged them to fight the results of a free and fair election.

It's no surprise, then, that in the last gasp of his attempted tyranny, many of his supporters heeded his battle cry.

My eye also kept landing on the word "stunt."

A stunt is something done for the purpose of gaining attention or publicity. It seems too lighthearted a word for Wednesday's insurrection, in which four Trump supporters and a police officer died. And yet, in some ways Trump's entire presidency has been a stunt, a series of words and acts by a showman who cares more about attention than useful action.

"Stunt" also fits the mood of many of the insurrectionists. Many of them roamed around the Capitol's ornate halls, posing for selfies, mugging with statues, clearly having fun.

I heard one woman on the radio say cheerily it was the best two days of her life, as if she'd spent the weekend on a whirlwind Washington, D.C., vacation.

But stunts can have a dark side. As WBEZ reporter Odette Yousef points out in her excellent recent report on white supremacists at the Capitol siege, "Close observers of the far right are worried that this was an optics win for extremists, and that these events will be used to recruit more to their cause."

And then there's the word "sad."

So many things about this event were sad—"sad" being a close relative of "infuriating."

It's sad how many Americans can't tell truth from lies. Sad how much money there is to be made by media companies whose fortunes are built on obscuring the difference.

It's sad how many of the insurrectionists don't seem to understand that Donald Trump doesn't love them. He loves that they love him. The risk they took in assaulting the Capitol is, in his eyes, proof of their love.

It's sad that it took this violence to shake many lawmakers into renouncing this president.

And it's sad how many people equate the assault on the U.S. Capitol with the violence that sprang from the summer's mostly peaceful protests for social justice.

See SHOCKING on Next Page

White privilege—and the American caste system—was on display during the insurrection

When the insurrection on Capitol Hill was over, midlife Black men in navy blue custodial uniforms cleaned up the mess.

The viral video of the janitors sweeping debris from the hallway was as telling as any image of the day. It told a story beyond the photos of white people scaling the exterior walls of the Capitol, breaking windows to gain entry or the man lounging in the House speaker's office chair with his feet propped upon her desk.

It was a resignation without a word spoken. As is often the case, Black people were left to clean up the mess, this time left by whites who stormed the Capitol in an attempt to force Congress to invalidate Black votes.

There is one thing on which most of us can agree regarding the insurrection. White rioters were treated differently than African Americans. Black men—and women—likely would have been shot down for taking over this sacred building, the preeminent symbol of American democracy.

But white people, for the most part, were allowed to roam freely. When one of the rioters was done breaking the law, an officer held her arm and assisted her down the Capitol steps.

We should consider it progress that so many white people realize that a much harsher system of justice is applied to African Americans. Or perhaps what is new is that some white people are now quicker to say it publicly.

But saying it out loud is not enough.

We must come together as a nation to force the justice system into balance. However, we cannot begin to figure out how to do that until we understand why it always has been so lopsided.

It is easy to attribute everything that happens unfairly to African Americans to racism. Racism has become a catchall phrase for anything in which the majority race receives unwarranted precedence over the minority race.

Often, it is indeed racism, but that is not always the entire story.

My friend Isabel Wilkerson, whom I met years ago when she was a national correspondent for The New York Times based in Chicago, suggests that the injustice we most often see is something more complex. It is the adherence to a caste system that is as much a part of America's DNA as it was in Nazi Germany and today in India.

Her new book, "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents," provides insight into the inner workings of America's caste system. She challenges us to delve deeper into a concept that for most

Americans is foreign, if not incomprehensible.

In her book, Wilkerson describes America's caste system as a social hierarchy that was established centuries ago "based upon what people looked like, an internalized ranking, unspoken, unnamed, unacknowledged by everyday citizens even as they go about their lives adhering to it and acting upon it subconsciously to this day."

Caste and race are interwoven in America, she explains, and it can be hard to separate the two. She distinguishes them this way:

"Any action or institution that mocks, harms, assumes, or attaches inferiority or stereotype on the basis of the social construct of race can be considered racism," she writes.

"Any action or structure that seeks to limit, hold back, or put someone in a defined ranking, seeks to keep someone in their place by elevating or denigrating that person on the basis of their perceived category, can be seen as casteism.

"Casteism is the investment in keeping the hierarchy as it is in order to maintain your own ranking, advantage, privilege, or to elevate yourself above others or keep others beneath you."

Caste is structure, she writes. Caste is ranking. Simply put, caste is about keeping "those on your disfavored rung from gaining on you."

It should surprise no one that Black people rank lowest in the caste system and white people comprise the upper caste. So from their perch at the top of the hierarchy, white people are allowed to get away with things that Black people cannot. Their entitlement is widely recognized, even by some in law enforcement.

According to Wilkerson, casteism "may flare and reassert itself in times of upheaval and recede in times of relative calm," but it is always there.

Let's look at what happened last week through the lens of the caste system.

Swarms of white people descended upon Washington demanding that the government return something they believed had been stolen from them, in this case, an election. They had no proof to back it up. Caste does not require it.

"Caste is the granting or withholding of respect, status, honor, attention, privileges, resources, benefit of the doubt, and human kindness to someone on the basis of their perceived rank or standing in the hierarchy," Wilkerson writes.

Caste reaffirms white people's standing. Even whites at the bottom of the social economic scale could be assured that they held title to something that no one else did—that America has always belonged to them.

Finally, there was a president who understood the natural order, and his supporters would go to any lengths to keep him in office.

So they burst into the Capitol. It was not trespassing, because this building and everything inside belonged to them. They shouted, "Our house! Our house!"

Trumpty Twitter Termination Tales

Our Father of Failure

(Hail the hypocritical hero of hype and hyperbole)

*"As that through long continuance of his course,
Me seemes the world is runne quite out of square,
From the first point of his appointed sourse, and
being once amisse growes daily wourse and wourse."*
—Edmund Spenser (1552-1599) *The Faerie Queene*.

Our Father of Failure who lives in what you call a 'dump'
Swallow your lying game legacy of blame and shame
Thy Blingdom's numb, thy will be perfunctorily done
By all Republican Senators under the Washington sun
With the exception of one grandpa Senator from Utah
Forgive your Cabinet this day for not telling the truth
They don't want to be fired or moved away from work
By the ignorant sycophants you have surrounding you
May you be led away from your temptation to insult
Degrade others leader's merits and be very vindictive
As has been your daily elective and DELIVER US
After the election from your cruel immigration policy
Separating innocent infants and children from parents
For thine is now a diminished kingdom coming down
You disgrace it every passing hour, its office and glory.

Trump's Terminal Tee Time Totals Today

(The truth about loot and lies on the losing leader's links)

Cost for Air Force One to Mar-A- Lago \$142 K per hour.
On 11/28/20 golf outing at Trump National outside D.C.
COVID-19 totals in America, 14 million cases, 279 K dead.
On Fox and Friends 2014 interview criticizing Obama,

By DAHLEEN GLANTON

Chicago Tribune

Dahleen Glanton is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune.



Richard Barnett was photographed lounging in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office. Another man smiled and waved at cameras as he walked through the rotunda carrying the House speaker's lectern. And another took a seat in the Senate chair that moments before had been occupied by Vice President Mike Pence as he presided over the joint session to certify Joe Biden as the 46th president of the United States.

Meanwhile, others swarmed the hallways wreaking havoc. When they were finished, most were allowed to walk away. It will take a long time for authorities to find all the offenders and charge them with crimes. Some likely will never be caught.

A caste system allows such a miscarriage of justice. It is not always intentional. It is simply inherent and most importantly, invisible. According to Wilkerson, its very invisibility is what gives it power and longevity.

Perhaps the most unseemly reward granted to those at the top of the hierarchy is entitlement. The caste structure sustains it and everyone, including some at the bottom, accepts it and sometimes, seemingly inexplicably, helps it to thrive.

It is common for those in the marginalized castes, Wilkerson writes, to "curry the favor and remain in the good graces of the dominant caste, all of which serves to keep the structure intact."

That explains why an Afro Cuban might accept the leadership of the extremist group, the Proud Boys, and why a sprinkling of Black people always can be found among counterprotesters of Black Lives Matter. It is why a handful of Black people were among those who stormed the Capitol demanding that votes of other Black people in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Georgia be tossed out as illegitimate.

So when the cleaning crew arrived, it was expected that many would be African Americans. Though janitorial work is entirely respectable, certain jobs are reserved for those at the bottom of the hierarchy.

Their work at the end of the day was the continuum of the natural order. Cleaning up after those at the top reflects the internal ranking within America.

It is required under a system built on caste.

SHOCKING

From Page 8

Breaking into the Capitol and trying to disrupt our elected leaders as they prepare a peaceful transition of power is simply not the same as breaking storefront windows. Neither is legal. Neither is good. Both should be denounced. But the idea that they're equivalent transgressions is just part of the danger nurtured by Trump.

Trump didn't create the fear and rage that led to the siege of the U.S. Capitol. But he inflamed and legitimized it. He stoked the dangerous feelings of his most deluded followers, and he has put our country at risk.

But in a few days, he'll be gone. While we wait, we can dust off a trusty old word—hope.

GET

From Page 8

glad to hear Pritzker say the National Guard will be used to set up mass vaccination sites. Health departments in Cook and Lake counties plan to administer shots. The state and local governments need to be doing everything possible right now to shift into high gear. Mayor Lori Lightfoot sounded the alarm days ago, calling for an "exponential increase in the amount of vaccine that's available to cities and towns all over the country."

On Friday, President-elect Joe Biden's transition team said that after taking office, he would release nearly all available vaccines instead of holding back enough for the required second dosages. He's betting on producers being able to continually refill the pipeline. The fact that there are conflicting opinions about the optimum rollout isn't reassuring, but if Biden is choosing urgency over prudence, that's the right call. People are still getting sick and dying. The country can't fully reopen the economy and send people back to work until the vaccine is broadly distributed.

As Pritzker said, "This is a race to get vaccines in people's arms as fast as possible." It's a race we can't afford to lose.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.








"I'm going to sort of give it (golf) up for a couple of years and I'm going to focus on the job." On 08/2016 45 said, "I'm not going to have time to play golf." Caddies call him 'Pele' for kicking balls, rough to fairway. 10/14/2014, in a Trump tweet, "President Obama spent the day playing golf. Worse than Carter." Carter not a golfer. WAPO lists Mar-a-Lago trips at \$61 million for first two years in office with trips to other golf courses estimate of \$142 million

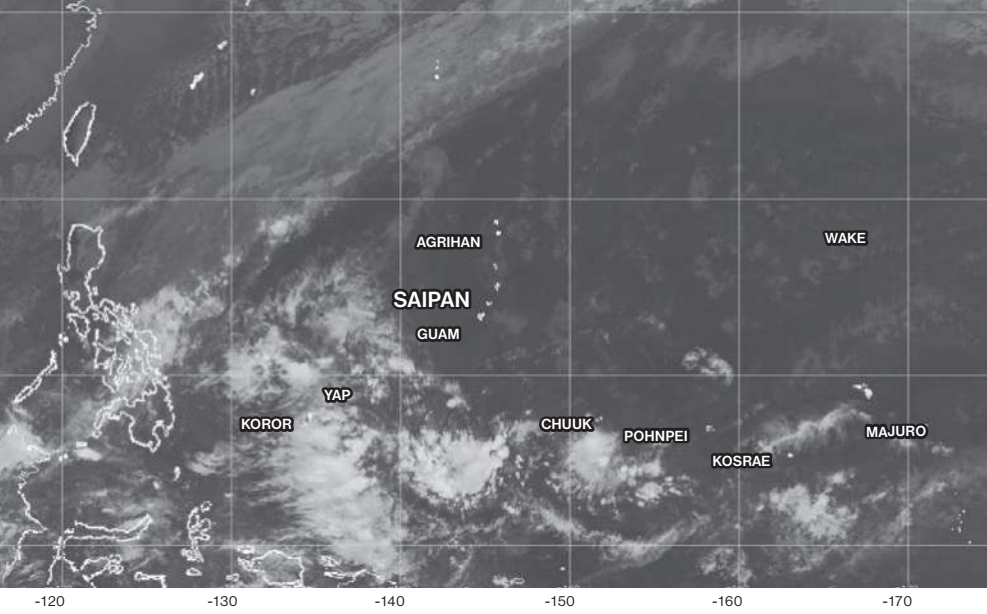
Golf outings: Obama 306 in 8 years; Trump 292+ in 4 years. Trump average rounds of golf per week during presidency: 1.4.

For short poetry diners, here are some senryu one liners:

bottomless pit, full of self-pity, 45's narcissisity.
45's learning curve, leans to gutter balls, as he falls.
pardon me, pardon who, Pence pardon me too.
no smile, for himself goes the long mile, King of Denial.
lying media? fake news? Trump miscues.
Twitter swats Trump, his ratings in the dump, loser slump.
Trump Twitter trap, a D.C. wash and rap, cyber clatrap.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:55 AM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A sub-tropical ridge north of Wake Island near 30N is sustaining moderate to fresh trade winds across the Mariana Islands. Mainly spotty light trade-wind showers are present from our area eastward to near 160E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:06 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:07 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:07 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:33 AM	7:06 PM	-
Friday	8:24 AM	8:04 PM	-
Saturday	9:10 AM	8:59 PM	-
Sunday	9:51 AM	9:50 PM	-
Monday	10:29 AM	10:38 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	76° / 63°	
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	38° / 25°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	66° / 58°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	77° / 68°	
London	Rain	44° / 36°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 55°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	69° / 53°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	71° / 63°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	49° / 37°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	54° / 36°	
Paris	Rain	48° / 38°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	51° / 40°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	55° / 32°	
Salem	Sunny	57° / 41°	
San Francisco	Fog	61° / 47°	
Seoul	Sunny	41° / 26°	
Tokyo	Sunny	58° / 37°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	54° / 33°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:25 AM	Low Tide	-0.78	
9:36 AM	High Tide	1.77	
3:01 PM	Low Tide	1.05	
7:41 PM	High Tide	1.77	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	
ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam	
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>				

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
GUAM TO ROTA				2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business

Yoga classes at Trench Tech Gym

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Trench Tech Gym located in Garapan is well known to mixed martial arts and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu enthusiasts. It is also a gym that advocates health and fitness and a new

addition to its program is yoga led by Kerri Bauer, a certified yoga teacher.

"Trench Tech caters to all who are interested in competing in cage fighting, competitive BJJ...martial arts... and people who simply want to get in shape... Yoga is great

for flexibility and strength and just about everyone can do it," she said.

"It [yoga] helps to clear your mind and focus your breathing which is scientifically proven to help reduce stress. It helps develop core strength, better posture, and body awareness... Yoga is a practice and everyone is all practicing together. I'm not perfect at every move either and when we fall, just like in life, we always get back up again," she added.

Bauer teaches six-week signup sessions of "Kids Yoga" during Wednesdays at 5pm and "Adult Yoga" at 5:45pm. "The 'Kids Yoga' is currently full and the adult class is composed of 10 classes for only \$50 or \$7 per class... At Trench Tech we can accommodate 25 participants," she said.

"Like all business establishments, we check temperature and log names and contact numbers. We keep sanitizing

stations on all sides of gym and of course wear our masks during class, our gym is an 'open wall setup where we have fresh air blowing through the fences when we roll up our tarps," she added.

Although Bauer has been on island for less than six months, she is not a newbie in the world of wellness and conducting fitness classes. Her energy and passion in health and fitness is evident in every sport she gets into. "I have been a group exercise instructor for 13 years teaching spinning, cardio, strength, barre, and other group fitness classes. I have been taking yoga classes on and off during that time and got more into yoga in the past few years and earned my certifications. I have trained with Yoga Renew 200 Hour YTT and the WillPower Method Cardio Yoga," she said.

"I was teaching a Yoga Core and more classes at Latte Built



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Certified yoga instructor Kerri Bauer has years of experience in learning and teaching yoga and other health and fitness programs.

IT&E joins fight against pandemic by getting vaccinated, encourages others

Many of our IT&E employees received the COVID-19 vaccine and the service provider encourages the community to follow its example.

Voluntary vaccination has begun for IT&E's employees by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to prevent the spread of the virus. As providers of an essential service, IT&E cares about the health and well-being of the community. It recognizes the importance of doing its part to help bring an end to the global pandemic. IT&E hopes that the example will give courage to those who are hesitant to take the vaccine.

"We are glad that the COVID-19 vaccine is available here in the CNMI and are proud of our employees that have gotten the vaccine to protect the community and themselves. We applaud the work of the Commonwealth Health Corp. to distribute the vaccine. We believe that ending the pandemic is a community effort and we all must do our part. We encourage everyone to get vaccinated," said IT&E general

manager Rose Soledad.

For more information about the COVID-19 Vaccine, please call 682-SHOT (7468).

Since the onset of the pandemic, IT&E has remained committed to protecting the health and safety of the community. IT&E has implemented in-store measures aimed at flattening the curve, including sanitizing customer areas frequently, installing plexi-glass shields, implementing mask requirements, limiting the number of visitors in IT&E stores for social distancing, and encouraging subscribers to utilize online and over-the-phone services.

In addition, IT&E has sought to encourage safe social distancing and keep subscribers connected to school, work and the latest news and information, including hosting a Stay Home Challenge in April 2020 and removing data caps and late fees for subscribers from March to May 2020.

For more information about IT&E and its services, visit its net. (PR)

Docomo to bring increased connectivity to more corners of NMI

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, will receive funds through the Rural Development Opportunity Fund to increase connectivity in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Federal Communications Commission recently auctioned \$9.2 billion of funding nationwide for high-speed (at least 25 Mbps) broadband rollout in rural areas that are un-

served by voice and broadband. Among the winning bidders of RDOF funds, Docomo Pacific will receive a small share of the nationwide funding in installments over the next ten years to improve connectivity in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The past year has made clear that having a strong, reliable Internet connection is essential for working from home, distance learning, and safely connecting to our fami-

[Gym] which evolved into Class and a Glass. I love the idea of teaching outside and participants felt more comfortable during the pandemic and yoga has picked up lot of interest and aside from Trench Tech, was requested to teach at Aqua Resort Club during Mondays at 8:30am at the beach of Aqua Resort which can accommodate lots of people

because of the open air. In yoga, switching up the scenery will stimulate your mind too," she added.

Trench Tech is located in Garapan near Century Hotel. For more information, call (670) 783-4662 or join Bauer's "Yoga In Saipan" group on Facebook where she posts latest updates on her yoga classes.

lies. Docomo Pacific is deeply invested in the communities we serve and actively seeks opportunities to help improve coverage and quality in all areas of the Marianas.

Docomo Pacific is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT Docomo, Japan's leading mobile operator. Headquartered in Tamuning, Guam, Docomo Pacific is the largest provider of personal, residential, enterprise connectivity and entertainment

services in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Named Guam's most reliable network, based on GWS' 2019 OneScore ranking. We are also the 5-time winner of Pika's Best of Guam and 4-time winner of Best of The Pacific. Docomo Pacific is dedicated to bringing you and your family closer to the things that matter most. Get to know more about what makes us "Better Together" at www.docomopacific.com. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticm.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2021

Opening date: January 08, 2021

Closing date: January 29, 2021

Positions: (1) Mechanic-II (Saipan-ARFF)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 29, 2021**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP21-BECQ/DEQ-026

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 08, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PERFORMANCE OF ASTM PHASE I ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENTS FOR BROWNFIELDS SITES ON SAIPAN & ROTA-CNMI FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

A **PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING** IS SCHEDULED FOR **JANUARY 26, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** IN THE 2ND FLOOR OF BECQ CONFERENCE ROOM (RM NO. 205). **ALL ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK AND EXERCISE SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING.**

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO **MR. ROBERT DELEON GUERRERO** AT robertdguerrero@becq.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS JANUARY 28, 2021** ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE GIVEN DEADLINE WILL **NOT** BE ENTERTAINED. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
RFQ NO.: DPW/SWMD21-RFQ-011

SUBMISSION DATE: February 10, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Request For Qualification Statements for the Project Management (Construction Management Services & Quality Assurance) for the Marpi Landfill Rehabilitation of Cell 2 and Construction of Cell 3"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DPW, TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, 2ND FLOOR, OLEAI COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **January 20, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the DPW Conference Room, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 28, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director** Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Nation

FBI says it warned about prospect of violence ahead of riot

WASHINGTON (AP)—The FBI warned law enforcement agencies ahead of last week's breach of the U.S. Capitol about the potential for extremist-driven violence, U.S. officials said on Tuesday, contradicting earlier statements that they were caught off guard by the assault by supporters of President Donald Trump.

Nearly a week after the riot, officials said they were combing through mountains of evidence and vowed to aggressively seek out those who perpetrated the brazen attack on the U.S. Capitol. Though most of the charges brought so far have been misdemeanors, acting U.S. Attorney Michael Sherwin said the Justice Department was

considering bringing sedition charges against some of the rioters, effectively accusing them of attempting to overthrow or defeat the government.

"This is only the beginning," Sherwin said. "We're going to focus on the most significant charges as a deterrent because, regardless of it was just a trespass in the Capitol or if someone planted a pipe bomb, you will be charged and you will be found."

The Justice Department has created a specialized strike force to examine the possibility of sedition charges, which could carry up to 20 years in prison. Officials said they were utilizing some of the same techniques in the riot probe as they use in international counterter-



rism investigations, examining the money flow and movement of defendants leading up to the breach. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, called for the rioters to be added to a no-fly

list, a tool most commonly associated with terrorism investigations.

The statements by FBI and Justice Department officials on Tuesday were intended as both a defense of federal law en-

AP
Steven D'Antuono, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Washington field office, left, listens as acting U.S. Attorney Michael Sherwin, speaks during a news conference Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021, in Washington.

forcement preparations before the deadly riot and as a warning to participants. But they also raised new questions about the coordination across agencies for the Jan. 6 riot, which was sparked by Trump's calls for his supporters to fight Congress' vote confirming President-elect Joe Biden's victory.

In the immediate aftermath of the riot, some law enforcement officials, including the

Capitol police chief, said they were unaware of serious concerns leading up to Jan. 6 and had prepared only for a free-speech protest.

But on Tuesday, The Washington Post reported on the existence of a Jan. 5 report from the FBI's field office in Norfolk, Virginia, that forecast, in detail, the chances that extremists could commit "war" in Washington the following day. Steven D'Antuono, the assistant director in charge of the FBI's Washington field office, said that once he received the Jan. 5 warning, the information was quickly shared with other law enforcement agencies through the joint terrorism task force.

House races to oust Trump; he blames accusers for US 'anger'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. House rushed ahead Tuesday toward impeaching President Donald Trump for the deadly Capitol attack, taking time only to try to persuade his vice president to push him out first. Trump showed no remorse, blaming impeachment itself for the "tremendous anger" in America.

Already scheduled to leave office next week, Trump is on the verge of becoming the only

president in history to be twice impeached. His incendiary rhetoric at a rally ahead of the Capitol uprising is now in the impeachment charge against him, even as the falsehoods he spread about election fraud are still being championed by some Republicans.

The House convened Tuesday night to vote on urging Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment to the Constitution to remove Trump with a Cabinet vote. But shortly before that, Pence said he would not do so in a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

He said that it would not be in the best interest of the nation or consistent with the Constitution and that it was

"time to unite our country as we prepare to inaugurate President-elect Joe Biden."

Meanwhile, three three Republican lawmakers, including third-ranking House GOP leader Liz Cheney of Wyoming, announced they would vote to impeach Trump on Wednesday, cleaving the Republican leadership, and the party itself.

"The President of the United States summoned this mob, assembled the mob, and lit the flame of this attack," said Cheney in a statement. "There has never been a greater betrayal by a President of the United States of his office and his oath to the Constitution."

As pandemic worsens, most US states resist restrictions

PHOENIX (AP)—As the U.S. goes through the most lethal phase of the coronavirus outbreak yet, governors and local officials in hard-hit parts of the country are showing little willingness to impose any new restrictions on businesses to stop the spread.

And unlike in 2020, when the debate over lockdowns often split along party lines, both Democratic and Republican leaders are signaling their opposition to forced closings and other measures.

Some have expressed fear of compounding the heavy economic damage inflicted by the outbreak. Some see little patience among their constituents for more restrictions 10 months into the crisis. And some seem

to be focused more on the rollout of the vaccines that could eventually vanquish the threat.

The most notable change of tune came from New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, who imposed a tough shutdown last spring as the state became the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak.

"We simply cannot stay closed until the vaccine hits critical mass. The cost is too high. We will have nothing left to open," Cuomo said this week as confirmed infections in the state climbed to an average of 16,000 a day and deaths reached about 170 per day.

Theaters remain closed and there is no indoor dining in New York City, but Cuomo

said Tuesday that if a system of rapid virus tests could be developed, it could allow those things to return safely.

In Arizona, where the pandemic is raging, Republican Gov. Doug Ducey has been steadfast in his opposition to a statewide mask mandate or the closing of bars, gyms and restaurant dining despite repeated calls from hospital leaders to take such steps. And high school officials voted Tuesday to allow winter sports, reversing a decision made four days earlier to cancel the season.

"If we're really all in this together, then we have to appreciate that for many families 'lockdown' doesn't spell inconvenience; it spells catastrophe," Ducey said.

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SAIPAN VEGAS

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Marketing and Membership Manager/ Assistant Manager

Pay Rate: \$9.00 to \$15/hour based on applicant's qualification and experience.

Job Description: Must have a minimum of 3 years with customer relations/ loyalty club promotions, or 3 years experience as a marketing supervisor/ manager, along with 3 years of experience with E-gaming/ slot Club or Casino loyalty and or marketing. Applicants must be knowledgeable and capable of developing customer loyalty programs and creating promotion that has potential to attract customers and creating and maintaining marketing project timelines.

Excellent organizational and written/oral communication skills.

Proactive, organized, efficient, detail-oriented, unassailable focus on the basics, tenacious (persistent about bringing open items to closure), accountable, and enthusiastic.

Interested parties may contact Kevin Perez at Kevin.perez@saipancountryclub.com

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB21-DCCA/DYS-028
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021 TIME: 9:30 A.M.
"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) CLASS "I" VEHICLES
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS,
DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DCCA/DYS-027
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021 TIME: 9:00 A.M.
OFFICE/BUILDING SPACE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT AUDIT MANAGER

EXAMINATION NO. OPA-21-001
Opening Date: 1/14/21 Closing Date: 1/28/21

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan.

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: <http://opacnmi.com>
Address: 1236 Yap Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: PO Box 501399, Saipan MP 96950
Email: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481 Fax: (670) 322-7812

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DPW-030
SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 08, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) PORTABLE INTEROPERABLE
COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC WORKS - SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

World

India starts shipping COVID-19 vaccine to cities

NEW DELHI (AP)—India has started shipping COVID-19 vaccines to multiple cities, four days ahead of a nationwide inoculation drive.

The first consignment of vaccines developed by the Serum Institute of India left the city of Pune on Tuesday. The vaccines rolled out from Serum Institute of India's

facility in temperature-controlled trucks to the city's airport, from where they were loaded into private air carriers for distribution all over the country.

Civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri called the shipping of vaccines a "momentous mission."

Beginning Saturday, India

will start the massive undertaking of inoculating an estimated 30 million doctors, nurses and other front-line workers. The effort will then turn to inoculating around 270 million people who are either older than 50 or have secondary health conditions that raise their risks of dying from COVID-19.

The first vaccine shipments contain the COVISHIELD vaccine made by the Serum Institute and developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca.

India's drug regulator has also approved for emergency use a homegrown vaccine, Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN. Medical groups and others have raised concern about the drug being approved with scant evidence of its effectiveness. It's still unclear when and where COVAXIN will be distributed.

India has the second-most COVID-19 infections in the world, after the U.S. It has confirmed more than 10.4 million cases and over 150,000 deaths.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ The small Pacific nation of Micronesia has reported its first case of the coronavirus after a crewmember on an arriving ship tested positive. In an address to the nation, President David Panuelo said many people had heard the "alarming news" but the case has been contained

at the border. Panuelo said one crew member aboard the government ship Chief Mailo had tested positive when the ship returned from the Philippines following more than a year of drydock repairs. He said the crew member has been isolated on board, that all other crew remain on board, and that the ship is being monitored daily by law enforcement. Micronesia, home to 100,000 people, had been among just a few nations to have avoided the virus altogether.

■ New Zealand will soon require that travelers from most countries show negative coronavirus tests before they leave for New Zealand. COVID-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins says New Zealand is in a fortunate position to have stamped out community spread of the virus but takes nothing for granted. The new rules will require travelers to have a negative test within 72 hours of departure. The rules will be imposed on travelers from the U.S. and the U.K. from Friday and most other countries soon after.

Travelers from Australia and some Pacific nations will be exempted. In addition to the test requirement, New Zealand will continue to place new arrivals in mandatory two-week quarantine at the border.

■ Indonesia has received the raw materials to begin making 15 million doses of Sinovac's COVID-19 vaccine. The materials will be stored at cold temperatures before being sent to state-owned PT Bio Farma in Bandung, West Java, which Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikit said will process them within a month. Indonesia's Food and Drug Authority gave emergency approval to Sinovac's vaccine on Monday. The first two batches of the vaccine, which were fully produced by the Chinese company, will be distributed beginning this week. "The government brought this third batch to add the number of the vaccine that will be distributed to the public," COVID-19 task force Chief Doni Monardo said. Indonesia has recorded 836,000 cases and 24,000 deaths from COVID-19.

Divers recover crashed Indonesian plane's data recorder

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian navy divers searching the ocean floor on Tuesday recovered the flight data recorder from a Sriwijaya Air jet that crashed into the Java Sea with 62 people on board.

The device is expected to help investigators determine what caused the Boeing 737-500 to nosedive into the ocean in heavy rain shortly after taking off from Jakarta on Saturday.

The 26-year-old jet had been out of service for almost nine months because of flight cutbacks caused by the coronavirus pandemic, officials said. It resumed commercial flights last month.

TV stations showed divers on an inflatable raft with a large white container containing the flight data recorder heading to a Jakarta port.

Military chief Air Chief Marshal Hadi Tjahjanto said the plane's other "black box," the cockpit voice recorder,

was likely to be found soon because its beacon was being emitted in the same area.

The devices were buried in seabed mud under tons of sharp objects in the plane's wreckage, navy Chief Adm. Yudo Margono said. He said at least 160 divers were deployed Tuesday in the search.

More than 3,600 rescue personnel, 13 helicopters, 54 large ships and 20 small boats are searching the area just north of Jakarta where Flight 182 crashed and have found parts of the plane and human remains in the water at a depth of 23 meters (75 feet).

So far, the searchers have sent 74 body bags containing human remains to police identification experts who on Monday said they had identified their first victim, 29-year-old flight attendant Okky Bisma.

His wife, Aldha Refa, who is also a flight attendant for Sriwijaya Air, shared her grief in a series of posts on social media.

"My husband is a loving, devout and super kind man," she wrote on Instagram. "Heaven is your place, dear ... be peaceful there."

Anguished family members have been providing samples for DNA tests, and the National Police disaster victim identification unit said it has identified three more victims, including the co-pilot.

The chairman of Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee, Soerjanto Tjahjono, ruled out a possible midair breakup after seeing the condition of the wreckage found by searchers. He said the jet was intact until it struck the water, concentrating the debris field, rather than spreading it out over a large area as would be seen with a midair event.

Tjahjono said the plane continued to send altitude data until it descended to 250 feet (75 meters) above the water's surface.

China expands lockdowns, local political conference delayed

BEIJING (AP)—Lockdowns have been expanded and a major political conference postponed in a province next to Beijing that is the scene of China's most serious recent COVID-19 outbreak.

Residents of the city of Gu'an just south of Beijing have been ordered to stay home for seven days starting from Tuesday. Similar measures have been ordered around the country, particularly in the central city of Wuhan where 11 million people were placed under lockdown for 76 days last winter as the pandemic was just beginning.

Hebei has also delayed the meetings of the provincial People's Congress and its advisory body that are usually held in February. It wasn't clear when the meetings would be held.

China last year postponed the holding of the National People's Congress and its advisory body in Beijing from March until May, shortening

the sessions and limiting media access in a sign of the seriousness with which the ruling Communist Party was treating the outbreak.

Hebei's provincial health commission on Tuesday reported 40 new confirmed cases, all but one in the provincial capital of Shijiazhuang just south of Beijing where transport links have been cut and residents told to stay home. Local authorities say several dozen of the more than 300 confirmed cases reported this year in the city appear to be linked to wedding gatherings.

One new case was reported in Beijing, where more than a dozen communities and villages have been put under lockdown, and one in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang, bringing China's reported total to 87,591 with 4,634 deaths.

That outbreak comes amid measures to curb the further spread of the virus during next month's Lunar New Year holi-

day. Authorities have called on citizens not to travel, ordered schools to close a week early and conducted testing on a massive scale.

World Health Organization scientists are due to arrive in China on Thursday to investigate the origins of the coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan in late 2019.

At a news briefing in Geneva, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the scientists, who hail from several nations, would be focusing on how COVID-19 first jumped to people.


"Studies will begin in Wuhan to identify the potential source of infection of the early cases," Tedros said.

An Associated Press investigation recently found that China has been strictly controlling all research into the origins of the coronavirus, and the WHO team will have its agenda and any visits within China approved by the Chinese government.

IN LOVING MEMORY

†SALESIO ONGIIL

Also known as "Synder"
Born on September 03, 1958 and called to his eternal life on January 07, 2021.



His memory will live on through his:

Wife: Pillar Rechuluul
Children: Charles & Gina Nicholas (Ilea, Ivory, Charles II)
Ferrah & Brad Patterson (Cameron, Hyaden)
Schneider Ongiil & Sheryl Suwei (Snyder II)
Sheena & William Beck
Swayzer Ongiil

We would like to extend our sincerest and heartfelt Thank you to all our family and friends for your kind words of sympathy and your endless generosity during our time of sorrow. We invite you to join us as we lay him down to rest. Viewing will be on January 16, Saturday, at CHCC Chapel starting at 8:00am – 10:00am followed by his final resting place in Tanapag Cemetery.

Thank you,

WIFE, CHILDREN AND FAMILY

Environment

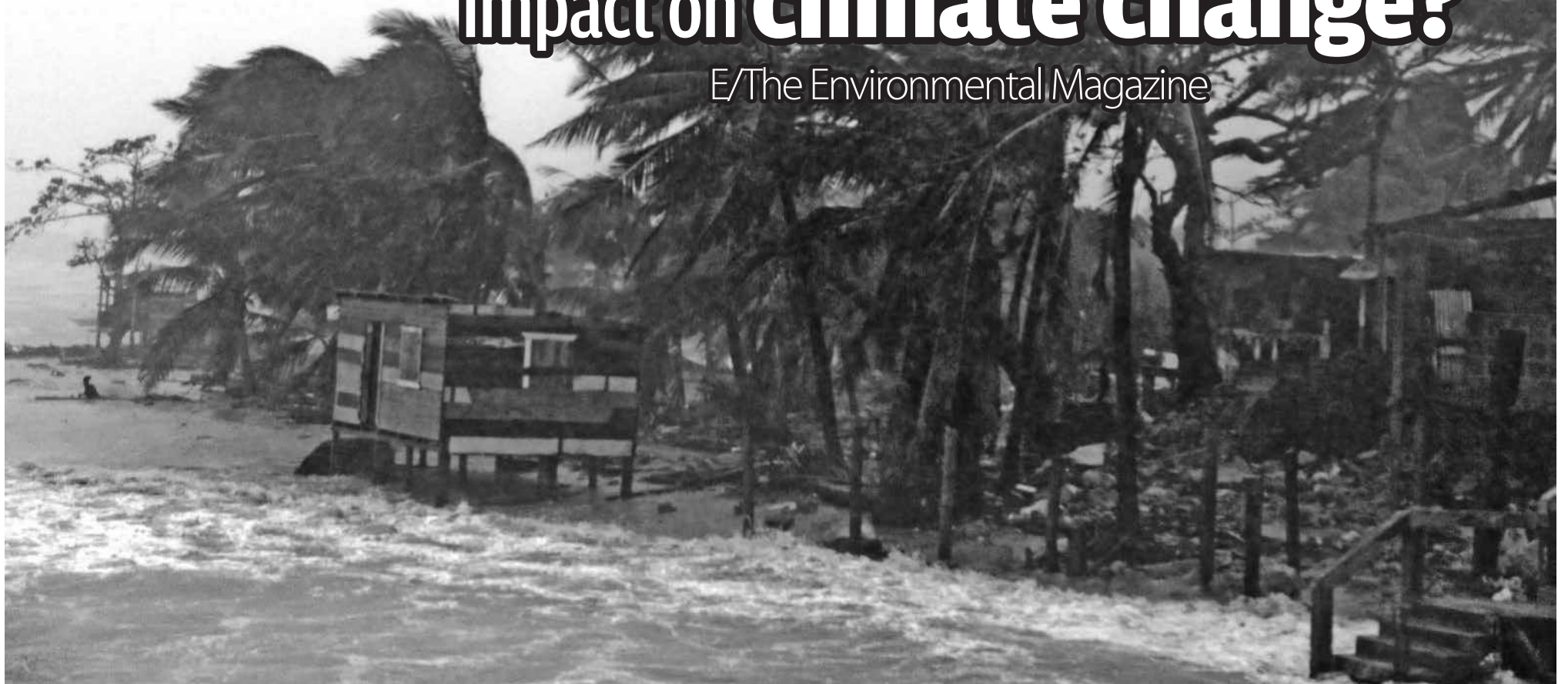
Earth Talk:

Has the pandemic had a positive impact on climate change?

E/The Environmental Magazine

Palm trees blow by wind as Nicaragua prepares to receive hurricane Iota on Nov. 16, 2020 in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua. Storms were more intense than ever in 2020 despite emissions reductions.

MAYNOR VALENZUELA/GETTY IMAGES/TNS



Dear EarthTalk: Given the economic slowdown around the world due to the coronavirus in 2020, was there a positive impact on climate change?

—M. Stiles, Meriden, Connecticut

The coronavirus pandemic has certainly led to a decrease in industrial activity and resulting greenhouse gas emissions during its reign over the planet. A recent study by German researchers calculated that global carbon dioxide emissions fell by about 8% over the past year. While this is no doubt a good result from an otherwise bad situation, the researchers warn it represents nothing but a small drop in the bucket compared to what we still need to accomplish—even

bigger annual emissions drops every year for decades to come—to avert cataclysmic climate change.

According to study co-author Ralf Sussmann, we would need to achieve zero emissions around the world by 2055 to limit global warming at 1.5°C. The declining rate of greenhouse gas emissions during the global pandemic would not only need to be upheld, it would need to be amplified to achieve zero emissions. Sussmann and other study authors stated that to achieve these reductions “political measures have to be taken to directly initiate fundamental technological changes in the energy and transport sectors.”

Despite the drop in emissions over this past year, 2020 will likely go

down in history as the year things started to really accelerate with regard to climate change’s effects. Recent increases in both the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are consequences of global climate change. “Global warming can contribute to the intensity of heat waves... Increasing temperatures mean a longer wildfire season,” reports the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. “Global warming also increases water vapor in the atmosphere, which can lead to more frequent heavy rain and snowstorms.” This means stronger hurricanes and flooding.

In 2020, extreme weather events plagued people around the world amid the pandemic. In the U.S. alone,

Americans witnessed orange skies clouded with smoke and a number of powerful hurricanes coming from the Atlantic. Globally, there have been record high average temperatures, double the activity of a normal hurricane season, the hottest temperature ever reliably recorded in human history (54°C), the most costly damages from flooding to date in China, record low Arctic sea ice, and the strongest tropical cyclone to hit land that has ever been recorded (Super Typhoon Goni). These abnormally extreme weather events are all indicators of the accelerating effects of climate change on our planet.

Even though climate change continues to worsen, in small ways all over the world nature has taken this

economic slowdown as a chance to breathe. For example, the murky waters of Venice’s canals became clearer than they had been in decades—and sea life even returned to the city’s urban waterways. While global warming has not stopped because of the global pandemic, we have learned that Mother Nature responds positively to our improved behavior (even when not intended), which gives environmental advocates hope to keep on working. It’s now up to every one of us to make significant changes in our own orbits—perhaps by keeping up our slower and more stationary existences even after we have a grip on coronavirus—if we hope to mitigate and reverse the effects of climate change.

Climate change causing one-third of flood damage in United States, Stanford study finds

By KURTIS ALEXANDER
San Francisco Chronicle
(TNS)

Increasingly strong storms are responsible for more than a third of the nation’s flood costs, swelling the tab by billions of dollars a year as climate change continues to fuel more extreme weather, according to new research at Stanford University.

The research, which is among the first to put a price tag on heavier rainfall, found that the changing weather is responsible for \$75 billion of the cumulative \$199 billion of U.S. flood damage from 1998 to 2017. Many of the losses over that period were in California.

The worsening storms are leaving more homes and communities underwater and exacerbating what’s already the costliest natural disaster

in the United States. Scientists and flood experts have long known that heavier rain is increasing flood damage. But parsing out how much has been difficult given the range of factors at play, which include population growth, new housing and rising property values.

“Our study is an important step in untangling this,” said Noah Diffenbaugh, senior author of the study and a climate scientist at Stanford. “Over the last three decades, we’ve taken on tens of billions of dollars in additional costs as a result of changing precipitation. This helps us quantify those costs and what it will cost to adapt to future climate change.”

The problem, according to the research, is not necessarily more rain, but more intense bouts of rain. Some parts of the country, including Cali-

fornia, have seen little if any variation in total precipitation in recent decades, though when storms come, they’re bigger.

“The wettest events have increased pretty uniformly across the U.S., whether the mean precipitation has changed,” Diffenbaugh said.

This trend has long been expected. As the climate warms because of more industrial and vehicle emissions, evaporation of the oceans increases and so does the amount of moisture packed into the atmosphere, which wrings out when storms blow through.

The Stanford researchers were able to estimate the cost of the additional rain by analyzing historical state-level flood damage and teasing out what models suggest would be the climate impact. The methodology accounts

for regional variation, which differs from prior studies that either focused too broadly on the United States or homed in on a single place.

How much flood damage will increase going forward hinges on future greenhouse gas emissions as well as future development in the nation’s floodplains.

Planning and environmental groups have long pushed for stricter rules on where and how new construction can take place. This month, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Association of State Floodplain Managers petitioned the Federal Emergency Management Agency to update its flood maps to better address climate risk and limit the potential for damage.

The high toll of flooding was underscored last week when Munich

Re, an insurance giant that underwrites other insurance companies, released a report on worldwide 2020 damage. According to the report, the Atlantic hurricane season caused \$43 billion in losses last year while thunderstorms in the U.S. caused \$40 billion of damage.

Isolating the role of human-caused global warming in such disasters is a relatively new and improving science.

“Accurately and comprehensively tallying the past and future costs of climate change is key to making good policy decisions,” said Marshall Burke, a co-author of the Stanford study and an economist and professor of Earth system science. “This work shows that past climate change has already cost the U.S. economy billions of dollars, just due to flood damages alone.”

Life & Style

Packers QB Rodgers says he will guest-host on 'Jeopardy!'

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers says he will be a guest host on "Jeopardy!" during the offseason.

The show is currently using a series of interim hosts to replace Alex Trebek, who died of cancer on Nov. 8. That process began when record-holding contestant Ken Jennings made his debut on an episode that aired Monday.

Rodgers was a winning "Celebrity Jeopardy!" contestant in 2015. The All-Pro quarterback and two-time MVP is currently preparing to lead the Packers (13-3) into their NFC divisional playoff game Saturday with the Los Angeles Rams (11-6).

"The show has been so special to me over the years," Rodgers said Tuesday. "It's been a staple at my house here in Green Bay for the last 16 years—6 o'clock, watching Alex and trying to get as many questions as I can. When the opportunity came up in 2015, that was a dream come true. It really was. To be on there, to

get to meet Alex was just such a special moment. We're all obviously sad about his passing."

Rodgers first made the announcement earlier Tuesday during a appearance on Sirius XM's "The Pat McAfee Show." A representative from "Jeopardy!" declined comment and said no announcement has been made about future guest hosts.

"I may have jumped the gun a little bit, so I apologize to 'Jeopardy!' if they wanted to announce it," Rodgers said. "I just got so excited on the show earlier. It kind of just went down the last couple of days, us figuring it out. It is very exciting. It's for the offseason. We'll be even more excited when that opportunity gets a little closer."

Rodgers mentioned the nostalgic connection people have to certain figures based on their childhood. He compared meeting Trebek during his "Celebrity Jeopardy!" stint to his first production meetings with Keith Jackson, John Madden and Dan Fouts, longtime broadcasters he had

watched as a kid.

"We all have so much love and affection I think for what (Trebek's) meant to just that half hour, that 22 minutes of our lives on a daily basis for those of us who are big fans of the show," Rodgers said. "To be able to be a guest host is really, really special for me. I can't wait for the opportunity."

Spike Lee's children named Golden Globe ambassadors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Spike Lee's daughter and son have been chosen as the Golden Globe ambassadors to assist with the awards ceremony.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Tuesday morning that Satchel and Jackson Lee will assume the ambassador roles for the 78th annual Golden Globes Awards in February.

Satchel, 26, and Jackson, 23, are the first siblings of color to hold the position. Jackson is the first Black male ambassador.

Both credited their maturation to their filmmaking father and mother, Tonya Lewis Lee, who is a film and television producer.

"We're proud to carry our father's legacy of storytelling to bring attention to com-

Chuck Norris manager: Actor was not at US Capitol riot

NEW YORK (AP)—Chuck Norris' manager says the "Walker, Texas Ranger" star was not present at last week's deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol.

A photo of a man resembling Norris apparently with a member of the mob began trending online. "This is not Chuck Norris," Norris manager Erik Kritzer told The

Associated Press on Tuesday.

"Chuck remains on his range in Texas where he has been with his family," Kritzer said. He acknowledged that the man photographed



Norris

looked somewhat like Norris but "Chuck is much

more handsome."

"Walker, Texas Ranger," in which Norris played karate-kicking lawman Cordell Walker, ran on CBS from 1993 to 2001. In 2016, he announced his support for President

Donald Trump.



AP

Director Spike Lee, second right, and his family, from left, son Jackson Lee, wife Tonya Lewis Lee and daughter Satchel Lee, arrive at the 76th annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Jan. 6, 2019.

munities close to our hearts," said Satchel Lee, who was the creative director of DRÔME, a queer and intersectional arts

and culture magazine.

Satchel chose to partner with Callen-Lorde, an organization that helps with LG-

PBS lawyer resigns after being caught in Veritas sting

NEW YORK (AP)—A lawyer for PBS resigned Tuesday after being caught describing President Donald Trump as "close to Hitler" in a right-wing sting operation.

Michael Beller, a contracts lawyer in PBS' general counsel office, was recorded offering political opinions in what appeared to be a barroom conversation with a woman. It was released Tuesday by Project Veritas, a conservative group known for using undercover methods to reveal supposed liberal bias.

Beller is heard saying it was

"great" that coronavirus cases were spiking in red states because they might infect Trump voters and suggested Republican voters should have their children put in re-education camps.

The lawyer did not speak on behalf of PBS or make any editorial decisions, PBS spokesman Jeremy Gaines said.

"There is no place for hateful rhetoric at PBS, and this individual's views in no way reflect our values or opinions," he said.

Efforts to reach Beller were unsuccessful.

Gothams give virtual start to Oscar season, 'Nomadland' wins

NEW YORK (AP)—Streaming from an empty banquet hall and with acceptance speeches made from living rooms, the 30th Gotham Awards gave a very strange Oscar season a virtual start Monday in a largely digital ceremony that crowned Chloe Zhao's "Nomadland" the best film of 2020.

As the first prominent award show to go forward during the pandemic, the Gotham Awards took a trial-and-error approach to mounting a show that couldn't include the usual trappings of the annual independent film awards: a flashy red carpet, free-flowing cocktails, standing ovations. The Gothams nevertheless

went ahead with a ceremony from its usual home of Wall Street Cipriani's in downtown Manhattan, albeit without an in-person audience and with only a handful of presenters.

Opening the show, Jeffrey Sharp, executive director of the Gotham Film & Media Institute, predicted that there would be "glitches and grem-

ins" throughout the event. The show was livestreamed on Facebook, with invitees placed digitally at tables via a poker program that Gotham organizers retooled to simulate being seated at the gala.

"While we're the first, we're definitely not the last award show exploring new ways to come together," said Sharp.

Son with new girlfriend grows more distant from his mother

DEAR ABBY: I'm a mom of three young adults, a daughter and two sons. The oldest recently married. My youngest is finishing his last two years of college out of state. Three months ago, he met a young lady.

I have tried constantly to be close with all my children, but the youngest has always kept me at bay. He expresses how different we are. Now that he has met this young lady, I think he's trying to push me further away and continue on with her and her mom. It makes me sad because no matter how hard I try to be a good mother and be present, it doesn't work. What do you suggest?

SAD MOM IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR MOM: Your son is pursuing not only this young lady, but also his independence, which is normal for someone his age, and he may need to separate from you for a while. Back off for now and allow him some space. Whether this college romance will pan out is anyone's guess, so calm down. If possible, concentrate on things other than your empty nest. However, if you are unable to do that, ask your physician or your insurance company to refer you to a licensed psychotherapist to help you get through this.

DEAR ABBY: I lost my schnauzer to diabetes five months ago. He was my best and, really, only friend. I can't get over the guilt for having to euthanize him. I hate myself. I have cried

every day since because I feel like I let him down. I have never had to go through this before. It was so traumatic I just can't get over it. Why is this so hard?

BEYOND GRIEF IN UTAH

DEAR BEYOND GRIEF: You have my sympathy. If your dog was suffering and your veterinarian told you the time had come for him to go, you did the right thing. Our beloved pets should run and play rather than suffer. This is so painful because you loved your cherished family member and feel you should have saved him, which, of course, was beyond your power.

Every pet owner faces what you are experiencing when they leave their pet at the Rainbow Bridge. In time, your pain should lessen. But if it persists to the point that it interferes with the rest of your life, consult your veterinarian about joining a grief support group.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 49 years is fighting me left and right about finding someone to help around our house. He is stubborn. He has tunnel vision and a one-track mind, and he doesn't want anyone to assist him in anything. If I hire someone, he always has a negative comment about that person's workmanship.

He's retired after working 44 years and thinks life will wait for him to complete any task, even if it takes another 49 years. I

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

need help with his "I can handle it" attitude while everything stays on hold until he can get to it.

NEEDS IT YESTERDAY IN MICHIGAN

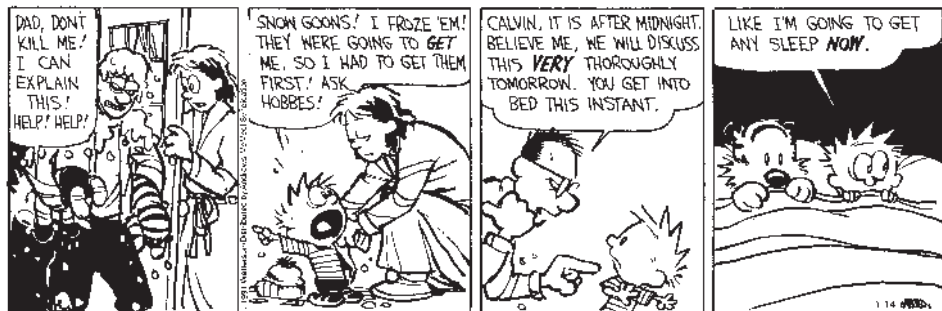
DEAR NEEDS IT: Give your husband a deadline to either finish a project or hire it done, making clear that if he doesn't do it, you will see it gets done. Then batten down the hatches and be prepared for him not to take the message gracefully.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



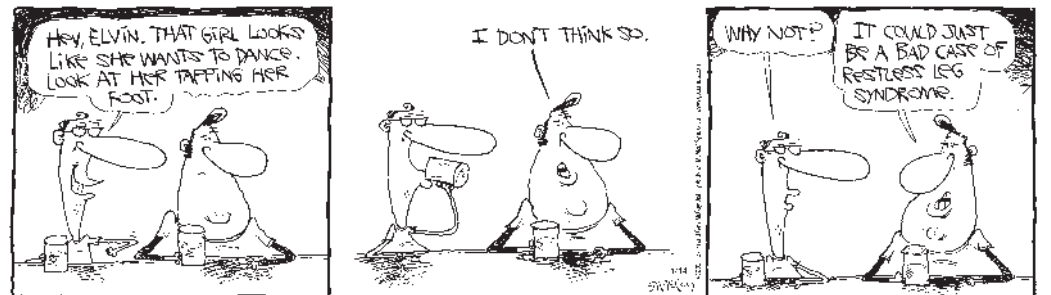
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Vault
5 — choy
8 "Like — out of ..."
12 Director Kazan
13 Charged bit
14 Arizona river
15 Org. for seniors
16 Sticky stuff
17 Petri dish gel
18 Works with dough
20 Sarajevo locale
22 Orange veggie
23 "— was saying ..."
24 Emmy-winner Alan
27 Fascinate
32 One for the road?
33 Meadow
34 Med. plan option
35 Symbol of stability
38 JFK guesses

DOWN

1 Plumbing woe
2 Flair
3 Suffix for billion
4 Tropical fruit
5 Ear-to-ear grin
6 Tic-tac-toe win
7 Handle
8 Tennis great
9 Tucci/Shalhoub comedy-drama of 1996
10 Jai —
11 Skater Lipinski
19 Opposite of nyet
21 Rowing need
24 Top card
25 Restroom, for short
26 Have lofty aspirations
28 Born
29 Brags
30 Actress Thurman
31 Dawn goddess
36 Mal de mer
37 The Sunflower St.
38 Puzzle
41 Alien, for short
42 "— to differ!"
43 Actress Kate
44 Thus
46 Yuletide tune
47 Pesky insect
48 Bigfoot's cousin
51 Resistance unit

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dave Grohl, 52; Jason Bateman, 52; LL Cool J, 53; Holland Taylor, 78.

Happy Birthday: Be creative, and you'll develop an interesting way to make your home conducive to your lifestyle. Designate areas to work and play that will keep you and anyone you share space with content. Choose to fulfill your dreams and maintain physical and emotional strength, and you will near your goal. Romance is favored. Your numbers are 7, 13, 19, 24, 31, 38, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Use your knowledge and insight to overcome adversity. Listen, but don't make changes based on what others pontificate. Use discretion, and be clear and factual in your response. Don't give in to demands; just do what you can. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Not everyone will share your concerns or your beliefs. Be open to suggestions, and use the information offered to assemble your thoughts and plans. If you want something done, be prepared to do the work yourself. Physical fitness will ease stress. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Research, gather facts and proceed alone if necessary. Refuse to get involved in a scheme that sounds too good to be true. Use the experience you have gained to encourage you to recognize and say no to manipulative individuals. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stick to creative projects and people you can trust to be honest with you. A change can be favorable if it doesn't entail joint endeavors

or shared expenses. Don't take a risk with your money or health. Share your feelings. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't be confused by the changes someone makes. Adjust and keep heading in a direction that will benefit you. Use your charm and physical attributes to get what you want. Walk away from anyone who chooses anger over peace and love. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Invest more time and energy into your home and family. Set up schedules and projects that will help bring you closer to the ones you love. Uncertainty will prevail if you disregard someone's feelings. Be open to suggestions. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Less talk and more action will avert opposition. Take a disciplined approach to the way you deal with friends and family, and you will persuade everyone to pitch in and help. Don't go over budget, even if others try to convince you otherwise. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A change you didn't anticipate will leave you in a vulnerable position. A friend, relative or colleague will let you down or lead you astray. Take a moment to collect your thoughts and to come up with a plan that works for you. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An opportunity to change direction will entice you, but before you jump from one thing to another, consider the worst-case scenario and the consequences. If uncertainty prevails, rethink your strategy. Maintain your position. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An unexpected change will result if you have trouble making up your mind or you let your emotions take over. Consider what you can do to ease stress and keep someone you love happy. Peace of mind is worth making a compromise. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep busy and do something constructive, and you'll avoid getting into a spat over something stupid. Someone is likely to overreact or start something that leads to a situation that will be difficult to reverse. Less talk and more action will improve your day. ★★

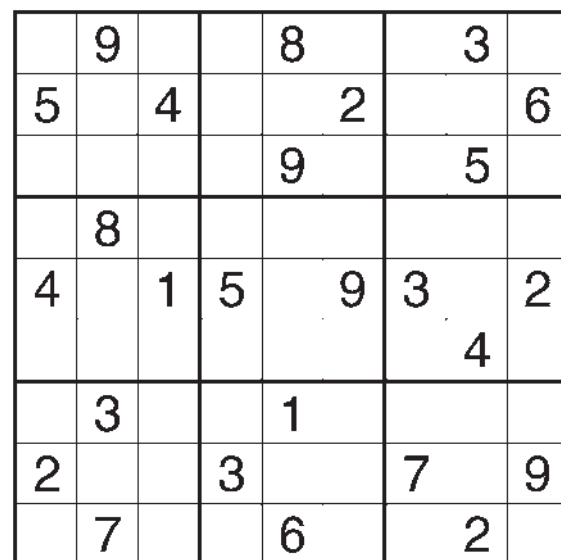
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone will give you the wrong impression. Don't believe everything you hear. Check facts, and you'll discover the best way to handle a change of plans. Put your energy where it will count the most. Concentrate on what you want to accomplish. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, enthusiastic and imaginative. You are resilient and energetic. Visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

1/14

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	2	6	7	8	9	1	5	4
8	5	4	3	1	6	2	7	9
7	9	1	5	2	4	8	6	3
5	4	7	1	6	8	9	3	2
2	6	8	9	5	3	7	4	1
1	3	9	2	4	7	5	8	6
9	8	5	4	3	1	6	2	7
6	7	3	8	9	2	4	1	5
4	1	2	6	7	5	3	9	8

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

A SALLIE TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT WORKERS Solution: 6 letters

S R C L E A N Y E K N I A R T
P C O L I A R V T C R E W I E
M E H S M C I S S E T U C L R
A L R E I R A B B H F K B C A
N A R S D V R R G C E A H O C
I I R T O U R I S T C C S M T
F T R E B N F A E S O G A T R M
E N E U M N L E P A G A T U O
S E S C H O O L P U O R F T L
T S P O T L T S W P S A A E L
S S E A I H I S E T E P R C E
P E C F W D A R U C O A C H Y
M O T O R M A N Y C R L R T B
A S R O U T E R K S E D I R U
R K R E E N I G N E H C A P S

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1/14

Aircraft, Cable, Care, Cargo, Cars, Check, City, Clean, Coach, Commute, Crew, Customer, Dispatch, Drive, Engineer, Essential, Fireman, Flight, Heroes, Lifts, Manifest, Motorman, Operate, Para, Personal, Pilot, Radio, Rail, Ramps, Respect, Rides, Route, Safety, Schedule, School, Suburbs, Supervisor, Thank, Tickets, Tourist, Train, Tram, Trolleybus, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Tutoring

The NEW Treasury 41 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6430.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Embiid, Mathias lift 76ers over Heat in OT

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Pick a position, Joel Embiid got to the basket at will and continued to stir early-season MVP hype. Dakota Mathias needed only one open look to squeeze his way into Embiid’s personal highlight reel.

Embiid had 45 points and 16 rebounds, Mathias’ only basket of the game was a go-ahead 3-pointer with 26.1 seconds left and the Philadelphia 76ers hung on to beat the undermanned Miami Heat 137-134 in overtime on Tuesday night.

“I’ve got a goal. I want to win the championship and I can’t do it alone,” Embiid said.

Embiid had some of the great moments of his career and carried the Sixers with a perfect third quarter and clutch buckets in OT to put them on the brink of victory.

“He willed that game for us,” coach Doc Rivers said.

It was little-known Mathias with the stunner that won it. Mathias, who went undrafted in 2018 and signed this season with the Sixers as a two-day G League player, got the ball from the top of the arc and buried it for the 134-132 lead.

“No hesitation,” Rivers said. “It says a lot about him.”

With Jimmy Butler, Bam Adebayo and Goran Dragic among the Heat sitting out for COVID-related reasons, they pushed the Sixers into OT with a mad-dash end to the fourth. Tyler Herro helped the Heat overcome Embiid’s dominant effort when his 3-pointer tied

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	7	3	.700	0.0
Philadelphia	8	4	.667	0.0
Brooklyn	6	6	.500	2.0
New York	5	6	.455	2.5
Toronto	2	8	.200	5.0

Central

Milwaukee	7	4	.636	0.0
Indiana	7	4	.636	0.0
Cleveland	5	7	.417	2.5
Chicago	4	7	.364	3.0
Detroit	2	8	.200	4.5

Southeast

Orlando	6	5	.545	0.0
Charlotte	6	5	.545	0.0
Atlanta	5	5	.500	0.5
Miami	4	5	.444	1.0
Washington	3	8	.273	3.0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific

LA Lakers	9	3	.750	0.0
LA Clippers	7	4	.636	1.5
Phoenix	7	4	.636	1.5
Golden State	6	5	.545	2.5
Sacramento	5	6	.455	3.5

Southwest

Dallas	5	4	.556	0.0
San Antonio	6	5	.545	0.0
New Orleans	4	5	.444	1.0
Memphis	4	6	.400	1.5
Houston	3	6	.333	2.0

Northwest

Utah	7	4	.636	0.0
Portland	6	4	.600	0.5
Oklahoma City	5	5	.500	1.5
Denver	5	6	.455	2.0
Minnesota	3	7	.300	3.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Philadelphia 76ers’ Joel Embiid, center, battles with Miami Heat’s Precious Achiuwa, left, for a loose ball as 76ers’ Isaiah Joe, right, tries to help during overtime of an NBA game Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021, in Philadelphia.

Spurs committed a season-low four turnovers.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led Oklahoma City with 20 points while Hamidou Diallo scored 16. The Thunder are 0-4 this season at Chesapeake Energy Arena but 5-1 on the road. Oklahoma City’s next three games are at home.

Pacers 104, Warriors 95

In San Francisco, Myles Turner made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 2:59 to play and scored 22 points as Indiana stymied Golden State.

The Pacers kept Stephen Curry in check by regularly playing him with a tough box-and-1 defense, though the two-time MVP still had 20 points.

Justin Holiday also hit a key 3 late to help Indiana bounce back from a loss at Sacramento to a night earlier.

Andrew Wiggins scored 22 points as the Warriors concluded a 4-3 homestand, their longest of the season. Wiggins also blocked a career-best five shots.

Jazz 117, Cavaliers 87

In Cleveland, Donovan Mitchell scored 27 points and Utah rolled over injury-depleted Cleveland, wrapping up its six-game road trip.

The Jazz are headed home with a victory, albeit a little earlier than expected. Utah was scheduled to play Wednesday at Washington, but the NBA postponed the game because the Wizards do not have the minimum eight available players.

Jordan Clarkson had 21 points and eight rebounds off the bench and Bojan Bogdanovic added 20 points for the Jazz, whose largest lead was 114-80 late in the fourth quarter on a 3-pointer by Miye Oni.

Spurs 112, Thunder 102

In Oklahoma City, Lonnie Walker IV scored 24 points and San Antonio finished a five-game trip with four wins.

Keldon Johnson added 18 points for the Spurs, who won their 2,200th game since joining the NBA in 1976. The

the game 115-all with 2:25 left. Precious Achiuwa scored two straight baskets—the first off Philly’s shot clock violation, then off a turnover—for a 119-115 lead.

Embiid buried the pull-up jumper just inside the 3-point arc with 3.3 seconds left that tied it 120-120 and sent the game into overtime. It was his only bucket of the fourth after he made all eight shots in the third.

Embiid’s go-ahead three-point play with 2:37 left in OT put the Sixers up 126-124, and Herro matched his regulation theatrics with another tying 3 for 129-all.

Danny Green matched the 76ers’ record with nine 3-pointers and scored 29 points and Mike Scott had 16 points.

Herro finished with 34 points, Duncan Robinson had 26 and Gabe Vincent 24.

“It’s a shame because our guys did more than enough to put ourselves in position to win,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “They could have kept on going another two overtimes. It wasn’t a matter of lack of want or lack of effort. Our guys emptied it all out there. It’s just a matter of getting over this hurdle of really finishing plays.”

Embiid finished plays in bunches and took over the third quarter when scored 20 points and in OT when he scored 11 points.

The big man even handled the rock with ease and went the length of the floor to hit a little fadeaway and extend the lead.

Nets 122, Nuggets 116

In New York, Kevin Durant had 34 points, 13 assists and nine rebounds, Bruce Brown made a huge contribution while starting for the absent Kyrie Irving, and Brooklyn rallied from 18 down to beat Denver.

Brown scored 16 points, including the tying and go-ahead baskets down the stretch. Durant followed with Brooklyn’s next six points, including a 3-pointer that essentially put it away at 120-113 with 27 seconds to play.

Nikola Jokic had 23 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds for the Nuggets, who were trying to sweep a three-game road trip.

the Lakers to their second straight blowout over the Rockets after a 120-102 victory Sunday night.

Los Angeles led by 20 or more for most of the game on a night James Harden made just 5 of 16 shots and the Rockets were outrebounded 55-42.

Christian Wood had 18 points and eight rebounds and Harden had 16 points, seven rebounds and six assists in a game where none of Houston’s starters played in the fourth quarter.

Spurs 112, Thunder 102

In Oklahoma City, Lonnie Walker IV scored 24 points and San Antonio finished a five-game trip with four wins.

Keldon Johnson added 18 points for the Spurs, who won their 2,200th game since joining the NBA in 1976. The

Harden says ‘crazy’ Rockets situation can’t be fixed

HOUSTON (AP)—James Harden publicly acknowledged his discord with the Houston Rockets for the first time Tuesday night following back-to-back blowout losses to the Los Angeles Lakers.

“We’re just not good enough ... I love this city. I literally have done everything that I can,” Harden said. “I mean, this situation is crazy. It’s something that I don’t think can be fixed.”

Harden had remained quiet through months of speculation that he is unhappy in Houston. Numerous reports have indicated he’s looking to be shipped to Brooklyn to play with former Oklahoma City teammate Kevin Durant, who left and became an NBA champion with Golden State. For all his accomplishments, Harden is still seeking an NBA title.

He’s been asked repeatedly to address the trade rumors since the season began but has deflected questions and refused to reveal any frustration.

That all changed after a 117-100 blowout loss to the Lakers on Tuesday night. The Lakers led by 30 points in the third quarter after leading by 27 during a 120-102 on Sunday.

Harden didn’t elaborate or take any additional questions following his initial comments.

Harden’s words will surely be noticed by NBA officials, but it wouldn’t seem that what he said postgame would merit a trade demand — and subject him to a fine. The league has a longstanding rule about players not being able to publicly express a desire to be traded and has issued \$50,000 fines in recent years to players like Anthony Davis and Dwayne Dedmon for breaking that policy.

Harden was fined \$50,000 earlier this season for conduct detrimental to the league related to him not following the health and safety protocols put into place by the NBA and the National Basketball Players Association for navigating a season during a coronavirus pandemic.

Harden won each of the last three scoring titles by notable margins — 2.3 points over Davis in 2017-18, 8.1 points over Paul George in 2018-19 and 3.8 points over Bradley Beal last season. His 24.8-point average so far this season ranked 18th in the NBA, still putting him among the leaders but obviously well off his usual pace.

He’s averaged at least 25 points per game in each of his eight full seasons with the Rockets.

The Rockets traded Russell Westbrook to the Washington Wizards in exchange for John Wall and a future first-round draft pick before the season in what was seen as an attempt to pacify Harden.

Rams coach mum on QB plans for Packers game



CALIFORNIA — Los Angeles Rams head coach Sean McVay made

the call on which of his quarterbacks would start last Saturday's playoff game against the Seattle Seahawks early last. He just didn't tell anyone outside the building what that decision was.

McVay chose John Wolford to start as Jared Goff was going to be just 12 days removed from surgery to fix a broken thumb.

Goff had to replace Wolford early in the contest as a hit from Jamal Adams left Wolford with a stinger and unable to return to the game. With this Saturday's matchup against the Green Bay Packers approaching, McVay is similarly keeping tight-lipped about which quarterback will start this weekend.

"No updates on anything as far as some of the plans for what we're going to do for the game," McVay said on Tuesday via quotes distributed by the team.

That being said, Wolford wouldn't have participated in practice on Tuesday while Goff would have been a full participant. The team only held a walkthrough so participation was estimated.

Goff is the team's starting quarterback. He came in injured to win a road playoff game in Seattle last week, snapping a 10-game home playoff winning streak for the Seahawks. If Wolford can't practice it would seem quite unlikely he'd start another road playoff game in Green Bay with Goff another week removed from surgery.

But McVay doesn't have to say that now and so he's not going to.

"That's exactly right," McVay said.

Goff completed 9-of-19 passes for 155 yards with a touchdown in relief of Wolford last week in the Rams 30-20 win over the Seahawks.

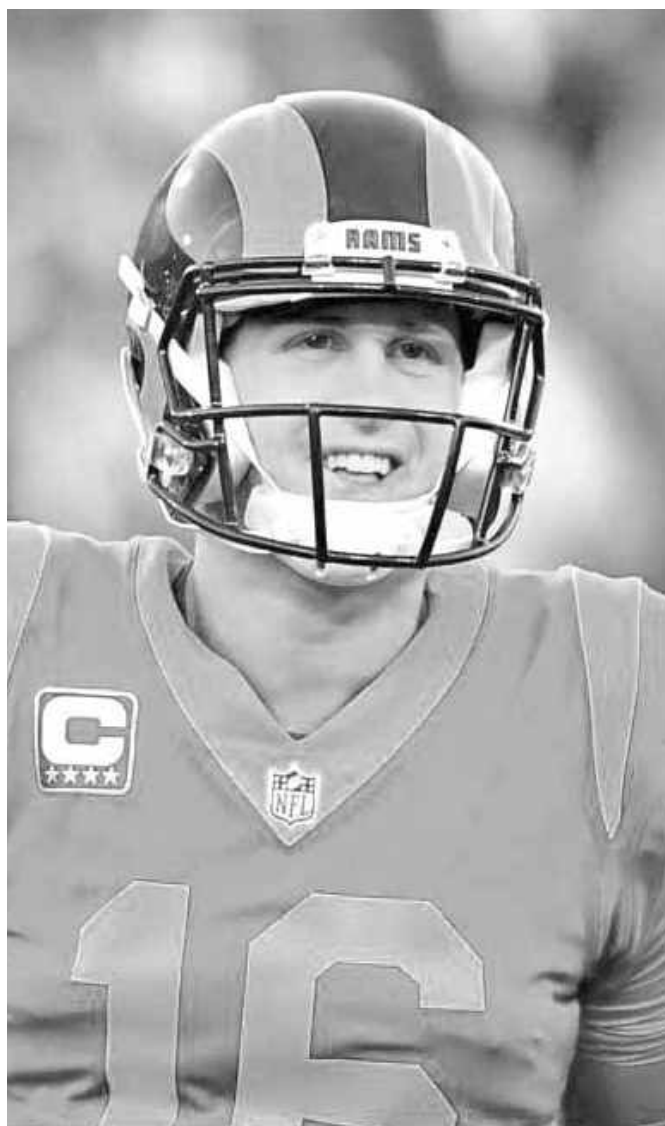
Stop Rodgers

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers announced Tuesday that during the offseason he will be a guest host on the television show "Jeopardy!"

If the Rams had a say, Rodgers might present a clue on the quiz show that reads: "This defensive coordinator stifled the top-seeded Packers in a 2020 NFC divisional-round playoff game."

The correct response: Who is Brandon Staley?

This week, as the Rams prepare for Saturday's game at Lambeau Field, Staley is scheming to figure out ways to make the answer a reality by



confusing a quarterback who has seen it all.

Rodgers, a 16th-year pro and certain Hall of Famer, has passed for 48 touchdowns with five interceptions.

"Aaron's probably going to win his third MVP this year—rightfully so," Staley said Tuesday during a videoconference with reporters.

Staley, 38, oversees a defense that finished the regular season ranked first in the NFL

in fewest yards and few points given up. Star tackle Aaron Donald suffered a rib injury during the Rams' 30-20 wild-card victory over the Seattle Seahawks on Saturday, but he is expected to play against the Packers. Cornerback Jalen Ramsey leads the secondary.

"This is a legit, real-deal defense," Packers coach Matt LaFleur, the Rams' offensive coordinator in 2017, said during a videoconference.



A day after the victory over the Seahawks, Staley interviewed with the Chargers and the New York Jets for their head coach jobs.

"Had two really great visits with the Chargers and the Jets," Staley said. "Humbled ... to be considered for a position like that in this league. An exciting opportunity to compete and meet with those teams."

"And then, as soon as those interviews were over,

you get right back to work on Green Bay."

Staley's main challenge: neutralizing Rodgers.

The Packers led the league in scoring, averaging 31.8 points a game en route to a 13-3 record and a first-round bye in the playoffs.

McVay hired Staley to replace Wade Phillips. Staley worked under coordinator Vic Fangio as the Chicago Bears' outside linebackers coach in

Los Angeles. McVay is still mum on whether they will utilize John Wolford or Jared Goff, left, as starting quarterback in their game against the Aaron Rodgers-led Green Bay Packers, right.

2017 and 2018. The Bears were 1-3 against the Packers in NFC North games. Staley also helped scheme against Rodgers last season as part of Fangio's Denver Broncos staff. The Packers defeated the Broncos 27-16.

So Staley is familiar with Rodgers. And Rodgers is familiar with Staley.

"Coach Staley's done a really nice job," Rodgers said during a videoconference with Green Bay reporters. "It's fun to see the young coaches coming up. ... Guys getting opportunities and getting a chance to put their stamp on systems they've been in."

Rodgers knows that Staley and the Rams' defense will attempt to confuse him.

"I've seen a lot of looks over the years," he said. "This is definitely unique in some ways. Just got to go out, trust your instincts, trust what you've seen during the week and be ready to react."

Rodgers most often looks for receiver Davante Adams. The seventh-year pro caught 115 passes, 18 for touchdowns.

Rodgers' savvy, quick release, arm strength and mobility make him difficult to defend. But Adams said he also makes teammates better by simplifying situations and relieving pressure they might be feeling.

"Just reminding them that they've been doing it their whole life," Adams said. "I've literally seen, it's been visible where you can kind of see a weight come off of a guy's shoulder in the huddle just from hearing that from Aaron.... Just comfortability, you know, 'I've been here and just follow my lead.'"

Asked if he has sleepless nights preparing for Rodgers, Staley said it cuts both ways.

"You either lose sleep, or you fall asleep right away because you're just so tired," Staley said.

Rodgers' talent goes beyond his talent as a passer.

"He's got an incredible awareness of all 22 guys on the field," Staley said. "He's aware of your sideline. He's aware of the officials. He has full command over what's happening on the field and that's what truly makes him special."

"It's something that requires all of us working as a team in order to compete against him, because he does bring that element to the table. (AP/NBC)

MLB fans not required to get vaccinated or COVID-19 test



NEW YORK—It's still January,

but the baseball season isn't far off, and spring training is even closer. With MLB commissioner Rob Manfred reportedly telling teams to prepare for a regular 162-game season, the league is also preparing for fans to attend games in some cities.

In a memo to all teams, MLB set "minimum health and safety standards" for fan attendance in the upcoming season. MLB will not require fans to show proof that they've recently tested negative for COVID-19 or received the COVID-19 vaccination before attending a game. Similar to the 2020 postseason, MLB will also not mandate that teams implement temperature checks before entering the ballpark.

Additionally, masks will be required at all times (except

for eating and drinking), and social distancing will be required when entering a ballpark and while inside.

Why are there no requirements on testing and vaccination?

According to reports, the memo explained why neither testing nor vaccination will be required to attend games this season.

In explaining why testing would not be mandated, the league said: "Mass testing of this kind is not practical with the existing rapid testing options, and testing is of limited utility when done days in advance of an event." The league said its guidance could change in the event of "any major advancement in testing technology."

In the memo, the league also noted the "uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 vaccine production and distribution" and advised teams to

consult legal counsel before imposing a vaccination requirement upon fans.

Since rapid testing isn't widely available, and the vaccine rollout around the country has been disastrous at best, MLB doesn't believe it's feasible to require fans to obtain either before attending a game.

The memo reportedly noted that the health and safety requirements are just the minimum. Teams will have the power to implement temperature checks or require proof of testing or vaccination, and they'll of course be required to follow the regulations set out by their cities and counties. A number of MLB cities still have bans on fans attending professional sporting events, including California.

While no team has made spring training tickets available for purchase, it's possible that could change soon. In the memo, MLB report-

edly opened the door for spring training tickets to be sold in "pods," or groups, which is also how tickets for regular season games will be sold. The size of the pods was not reported, but each group would be required to stay at least six feet away from each other at all times.

Meanwhile, the home of the Los Angeles Dodgers will continue to be a key part in the fight against COVID-19.

Dodger Stadium, which has been the largest coronavirus testing site in the country, will convert into a vaccination distribution center this week, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The stadium has administered more than 1 million coronavirus tests since it opened in May, per the report. The hope is now to vaccinate up to 12,000 people a day at the stadium once the center has been fully converted.

To cancel or not: IOC, Japan press ahead with Tokyo Games

TOKYO (AP)—Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga declared a state of emergency last week for Tokyo and surrounding areas. Amid the surging virus, he again promised the postponed Tokyo Olympics would be “safe and secure” and tried to disconnect the state of emergency from the fate of the games.

But opposition to the Olympics is growing with calls mounting for a cancellation. The International Olympic Committee and local organizers have already said another postponement is impossible, leaving cancellation—or opening on July 23—as the only options.

Two polls published in the last few days by the Japanese news agency Kyodo and Japanese broadcaster TBS show that just over 80% want the Olympics canceled or postponed, or believe they will not take place. The negative responses are up 15 to 20 percentage points from polls published just last month.

“The Japanese public are already more and more inclined to oppose the hosting of the Olympics this summer, and the state of emergency reinforces the perception that it is a lost cause,” Koichi Nakano, who teaches politics at Tokyo’s Sophia University, said in an email to The Associated Press.

As a fearful public asks to call off the Tokyo Games, it faces the reality of Olympic finances, geopolitics, and face-saving.

Japanese taxpayers have sunk billions into the Olympics, the IOC lives off the television money and has seen its income stalled by the post-



ponement, and China is waiting in the wings to hold the Beijing Winter Games in 13 months if Japan stumbles.

“Japan’s standing in Asia and in the world matters a great deal, particularly in view of its rivalry with China,” Nakano said. “It would be a nightmare for them (Japan’s political leadership) if Japan fails to be the host of the first ‘post-COVID’ Olympics and the title goes to China.”

Nakano said the government wanted to avoid the emergency order, which could be extended beyond Feb. 7 and to other parts of the country. This could further embolden skeptics and imperil the games.

Organizers have promised strict “anti-virus” measures to pull off the Olympics. Here’s what they face—vaccine or no vaccine.



They must bring 15,400 Olympic and Paralympic athletes, from more than 200 nations and territories, safely into Tokyo and still protect Japanese citizens. Add to this, tens of thousands of judges, coaches, officials, VIPs, sponsors, volunteers, media and broadcasters. And hundreds of thousands of fans—perhaps some from abroad—if any are allowed to attend.

Organizers have speculated about myriad measures to counter the virus, but firm answers probably must come by March 25 when the torch relay with 10,000 runners begins crisscrossing Japan, headed to Tokyo and the opening ceremony.

It was also in late March last year when the Olympics were postponed after organizers insisted they would happen.

For Japan, hosting the

Olympics has to do with justifying at least \$25 billion in “sunk costs,” satisfying domestic sponsors who have pumped a record of \$3.5 billion into the games driven by giant ad agency Dentsu, and gaining in the geopolitical contest with neighboring China.

For the Switzerland-based IOC, it’s a question of stabilizing its shaky income, 73% of which comes from selling broadcast rights—getting the Olympics on television. Another 18% is from sponsorships.

American broadcaster NBC will pay more than \$1 billion for the Tokyo rights, and its payments over a four-year Olympic cycle—including the Winter Games—account for about 40% of the total IOC’s income.

Unlike the NBA, English

In this Dec. 1, 2020 file photo, a man wearing a protective face mask to help curb the spread of the coronavirus walks with the Olympic rings in the background in the Odaiba section in Tokyo. Opposition to the Tokyo Olympics is growing with calls for a cancellation as virus cases rise in Japan. The International Olympic Committee and local organizers have already said another postponement is impossible, leaving cancellation, or going ahead, as the only options.

soccer or other sports businesses, the IOC has only two major events—the Summer and Winter Olympics. Dozens of international sports federations and many of the 200 national Olympic committees live off the IOC income.

IOC President Thomas Bach has described pulling off the Olympics as a “mammoth task” and acknowledged finances are under stress.

Dr. Atsuo Hamada, an infectious disease specialist at Tokyo Medical University Hospital, said the Olympics could bring “pride and legacy” and possibly short-term economic benefits—but also the virus.

“The games may be one factor that could contribute to the risk of rising infections,” he said in an interview with the AP.

Hamada said the state of emergency changed the landscape from a month ago, or from November when Bach visited Tokyo and spoke about

his “toolbox” of measures to combat the virus. Hamada believes “regular Japanese” will not start receiving the vaccine until May.

He said a “bubble method” once seemed feasible. The NBA and NHL were successful playing in “bubbles.” But the Olympics would require dozens of “bubbles” dropped over a metropolitan area of 35 million.

“Now with the state of emergency declared, the situation has changed,” Hamada said. “Holding the Olympics has become more difficult compared to the situation late last year.”

Japan, with a population of 126 million, has handled the virus better than most countries with about 4,000 deaths attributed to COVID-19. Last week, more than 20,000 “socially distanced” fans attended the final of the national soccer championship at the new \$1.4 billion national stadium.

In interviews last week, IOC senior member Richard Pound said that making athletes a priority for vaccination would be “the most realistic way of it (Olympics) going ahead.”

That appeared to contradict Bach, who has encouraged “all participants” to be vaccinated, but has said athletes should not be a priority. He also said vaccines are not required for athletes.

Pound also told the Washington Post the odds were about “3-to-1” the games would take place.

NMISTC

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help them improve physically and technically,” Zapanta said.

“In addition, NMIFA has always been looking at ways to continuously support our play-

ers, by participating in international tournaments, organizing off-island training camps, providing training equipment and uniforms, and others. In return, NMIFA only ask our players to be responsible members of the community

and to set good examples to the younger players. And with all the challenges and difficulties we are facing right now, we hope that our players will be generous with their time in doing volunteer work for our community.”



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The road between the secondary and main pitches at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville will be paved.

REYES

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He added that he was fortunate to have access to gyms to prepare for his debut in the tournament.

“Majority of the gyms were open so the COVID-19 pandemic did not really affect my training,” the former Ayuyus said.

With his success in last month’s event, Reyes said he is motivated to compete in more tournaments this year.

“I will be competing all year round and hopefully I can make it into the Nationals. I have three more years in the junior division,” Reyes said. “I will try my best to make an Idaho State record.”

The National Championships 2021 will be held in different states and dates as safety precaution against the COVID-19 pandemic. The junior raw competition, where Reyes belongs, will be combined with the Collegiate Nationals and it will take place in Baton Rouge, Louisiana from April 8 to 11.

Military, Police & Fire Nationals will go ahead first in Orlando, Florida on March 20 and 21, while the Teens Raw



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Roman Villagomez Reyes Jr. competes in the 2020 Mecca’s Holiday Hoist held last month in Idaho.

will coincide with the High School Nationals that will be hosted in Aurora, Colorado from May 27 to 30. Then for

the open, masters, and youth divisions, the Nationals will run from June 14 to 19 in Daytona Beach, Florida.



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Mathias lift
76ers over
Heat in OT

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Reyes earns podium finish

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kagman High School graduate Roman Villagomez Reyes Jr. had a notable debut in the 2020 Mecca's Holiday Hoist held last month in Meridian, Idaho.

Reyes joined the raw junior -93 kg class and was ranked third in the Dec. 5 competition that was sanctioned by the United States Powerlifting Association.

It was an unexpected podium finish for the 20-year-old, as he just started participating in powerlifting events in Idaho for less than a year although he has been involved in weightlifting back on Saipan. Reyes left the island in December 2019 to pursue higher education.

"I honestly did not expect to stand on the podium. I was up against some very strong people and I'm happy to say I performed to the best of my abilities," the former Chalan Kiya resident said.

Last year's edition of the annual Mecca's Holiday Hoist featured 80 men and women



powerlifters from different states and had competitions in 19 weight class divisions. Reyes recorded 210 kg in squat, 127.5 kg in bench press, and 230 kg in deadlift for a total of 567.5 kg to finish third behind Washington's Zane Johnson (600 kg) and Idaho's Schyler Voshell (600 kg).

Since it was his first time to compete in the Mecca's Holiday Hoist, Reyes admitted that getting ready for the event was very challenging.

"My five-week preparation for this competition was very difficult. I joined the competition last minute and I had to rush some things. I was always tired from training but luckily my team and I did it right," Reyes said.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Roman Villagomez Reyes Jr., seen here training last year, made it to the Top 3 of the raw junior -93 kg class competition in the 2020 Mecca's Holiday Hoist held last month in Idaho.

Improvement projects at NMISTC continue

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is capitalizing on its downtime by working on improving projects at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

After the completion of the reconstruction work of its secondary pitch through the funding assistance from the Asian Football Confederation, NMIFA is now doing improvements on the pathway between the NMISTC's two fields.

"It is not part of the mini pitch project, but NMIFA is also trying to make some improvements on the pathway or road between the main pitch and the mini pitch. Concrete sidewalks are being built, and hopefully, the road can also be paved with asphalt so access and viewing of activities on the mini pitch will be better," NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta said.

NMIFA managed to con-

tinue its improvement projects at the NMISTC, as football-related activities in the facilities are limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since restrictions were implemented in the CNMI in March last year as safety measures against the pandemic, NMIFA has yet to hold a competition and only allows training sessions of national team members and other special programs.

Meanwhile, NMIFA will continue to seek improvement of its facilities and provide programs to CNMI players, particularly those who aspire to move up to high-level leagues.

"NMI players are very fortunate to have these two beautiful soccer pitches with artificial turf. They can now play whole year round in a very nice and safe venue. This will be a big help for those aiming to get soccer scholarships in college because being able to play and train regularly will surely

See NMISTC on Page 19



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI national team players perform warm-up drills during a practice session at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last week.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Roman Villagomez Reyes Jr., right, joins first placer Zane Johnson, center, and Schyler Voshell in the podium.